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CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Arab-Israeli Talks

Sha'th Notes 'Considerable Progress' in Cairo Talks *[MENA]* 1
Shahaq Notes Progress, Not Breakthrough, in Talks *[Jerusalem Radio]* 2
Urges Palestinians To Implement Control *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 2

Inter-Arab Affairs

Maghreb Union Expresses Regret at Libya Sanctions *[London AL-HAYAH 17 Nov]* 3

Palestinian Affairs

'Serious Crisis' Reported in PLO Leadership *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 19 Nov]* 4
PLO Demands End To Israeli Settler 'Crimes' *[Algiers VOP]* 5
Peace Accord Endorsed by 66 Percent of Fatah Council *[AKHIR KHABAR 16-17 Nov]* 5
30 Fatah Hawks Stricken From 'Wanted' List *[AFP]* 5
Fatah Dissidents in Lebanon Call For Armed Struggle *[AFP]* 6
Jibril Demands Referendum on PLO-Israel Accord *[Al-Quds Radio]* 6
DFLP Secretary General Discusses Self-Rule *[AL-DIYAR 5 Nov]* 6
Communist Party Leader on Opposition Conference *[SHIHAN 20-26 Nov]* 10
Israel Urged To Expedite Transfer of Power to PLO *[AL-NAHAR 18 Nov]* 10
'Abbas on Espionage Case, Gulf States Ties *[MENA]* 11
Al-Hasan Urges Questioning of Bal'awi in Spy Case *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 16 Nov]* 12
U.S. Envoy Shows 'Understanding' in Talks With Kamal *[Algiers VOP]* 12
U.S. Policy Seen Less 'Balanced,' More Pro-Israel *[London AL-HAYAH 16 Nov]* 12
'Arafat, Russian Envoy Discuss Peace Process *[Algiers VOP]* 13
'Arafat Receives Yugoslav Foreign Minister Jovanovic *[Belgrade TANJUG]* 13
RSA's Botha Invites 'Arafat To Visit South Africa *[Johannesburg THE CITIZEN 17 Nov]* 13

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Hamas Leader Nahnah Interviewed on Dialogue *[Algiers Radio]* 14
Socialist Forces Front To Remain in Dialogue *[Algiers Radio]* 18
Ali Kafi Stresses Need for Solution to Foreign Debt Problem *[Algiers Radio]* 19

Egypt

Security Services Arrest 7 'Terrorists' in al-Fayyum *[MENA]* 19
'Terrorist Organization' Uncovered in Imbabah District *[MENA]* 19
Information Minister Leaves for Libya *[MENA]* 19
Libyan Official Leaves Cairo for Tunisia *[MENA]* 19
Libyan Official Departs After Signing Water Agreement *[MENA]* 19
Libya Urged To Enact Internal 'Changes' *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 13 Nov]* 20
Official Expresses Regret Over Libya Sanctions *[AL-AHRAM AL-MASA' 13 Nov]* 20
Israeli Minister Holds Cooperation Talks, Departs 20
Talks on Energy Cooperation Held *[MENA]* 20
Cooperation in Gas, Oil Discussed *[MENA]* 20
Israeli Minister Departs *[MENA]* 21

Israeli Arms Deal Casts 'Negative Shadow' *[Cairo Radio]* 21
Israeli Pressures on 'Arafat Said To Weaken Him *[AL-AKHBAR 15 Nov]* 21
PLO 'Power Struggle' Viewed *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 15 Nov]* 22
Yemeni Foreign Minister Departs After 3-Day Visit *[MENA]* 22
Papers Call Mubarak-Rabbani Talks 'Victory' for Diplomacy *[MENA]* 22

Libya

Al-Bishari: Suspects Will Not Be Surrendered *[MENA]* 23

Mauritania

Cabinet Approves 1994 Budget *[Nouakchott Radio]* 23
Cabinet Sets Date for Municipal Elections *[Nouakchott Radio]* 23

Morocco

Iranian Ulema Discuss Coordinating Islamic Rites *[MAP]* 24

Sudan

Armed Forces Claims Rebels Violating Cease-Fire *[Omdurman Radio]* 24
President Briefed on Delegation's Visit to Iran *[Omdurman Radio]* 24

IRAQ

Ramadan on Sanctions, Kuwait, Peace Process *[SHIHAN 20-26 Nov]* 26
Regime Said Erasing Evidence of Chemical Attacks *[IRNA]* 27
UN Team Visits Human Rights Center in Tehran *[Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution]* 28
'Normalization' Trend in Iraq-U.S. Ties Seen *[Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution]* 28
Resistance Attacks Police Center *[Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution]* 29
Saddam Receives Cable of Thanks From 'Arafat *[Baghdad Radio]* 29
Saddam Cables Sultan Qabus on Omani National Day *[Baghdad Radio]* 29
Saddam Cables Morocco's King Hassan on National Day *[Baghdad Radio]* 29
Yemeni Social Security Minister Arrives in Baghdad *[INA]* 30
Confers With Counterpart *[INA]* 30
'Aircraft of Aggression' Drop 5 Flares on Mosul *[Baghdad Radio]* 30
Allied Aircraft Use of Facilities Protested to League 30
10-11 Nov 'Hostile' Sorties Reported *[Baghdad Radio]* 30
Letter Notes 12-14 Nov 'Violations' *[INA]* 30
Butrus-Ghali Informed of 'Violations' of Airspace 30
'Spy' Plane Activity Protested *[INA]* 30
8-15 Nov Sorties Reported *[Baghdad Radio]* 31
'Strategic' Black Carbon Project Said Implemented *[AL-'IRAQ 11 Nov]* 31
Plans for 'Baghdad International Television' Reported *[AL-THAWRAH 14 Oct]* 31
Newspapers Reportedly Sold as 'Contraband Goods' *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 14 Nov]* 31

ISRAEL

Israel, Syria 'Close' to Reciprocal Declarations *[HA'ARETZ 19 Nov]* 33
Opposition-Coalition MK's To Form Golan Lobby Team *[Jerusalem Radio]* 33
Labor MK's Terminate Likud Contacts *[Jerusalem Radio]* 33
Lubrani Blames Syria, Hizballah, Iran for Violence *[Voice of the South]* 34
Syrian Attache Welcomes Tourism Contacts *[HA'ARETZ 18 Nov]* 34
Rabin Remarks on Polls Regarding Peace Process *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 34
Rabin, Peres Said To Differ on Accord Implementation *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 35
Peres Denies Differences *[Jerusalem Radio]* 35
Tzur: IDF Deployment on Eastern Border Vital *[Jerusalem Radio]* 35
'Rowdy Demonstration' Greets Weizman in Qiryat Arba' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 35
Five Armed 'Terrorists' Captured in Gaza Strip *[Jerusalem Radio]* 36
Two 'Terrorists' Given Life Plus 10 Years for Murder *[Jerusalem Radio]* 36

Israel Poses Cyprus as Venue for Talks Committee *[Nicosia CYPRUS NEWS AGENCY]* 36
Oslo Formulations Said Being Reconsidered *[HA'ARETZ 14 Nov]* 37
Energy Minister Concludes Deal on Pipeline With Egypt *[Jerusalem Radio]* 38
Another Soviet Spy Case Made Public *[Jerusalem Radio]* 38
Jerusalem Mayor Assigns Portfolios to Parties *[Jerusalem Radio]* 38
Call for U.S. To Write Off Israel's Debt *[HA'ARETZ 12 Nov]* 38

JORDAN

Minister Praises Iranian-Jordanian Ventures *[PETRA-JNA]* 40
Trade Accord Signed With Iran *[Amman Radio]* 40
French Foreign Minister Holds News Conference *[Amman Radio]* 40
Memorandums Signed on Canadian Financial Aid *[Amman TV]* 41
Left Concerned at 'Secret' Accords With Israel *[AL-AHALI 15 Nov]* 42
Ahmad al-Lawzi Appointed Senate President *[Amman TV]* 42
Royal Decree Names New Senate *[Amman TV]* 42
Accusations of Election-Rigging Explored *[AL-SABIL 16-23 Nov]* 43

LEBANON

French Minister Juppe Arrives, Met by Buwayz *[Beirut Radio]* 44
Discusses Peace Prospects *[Beirut Radio]* 44
Buwayz Interviewed *[Beirut Radio]* 45
Juppe Meets al-Hariri, Birri, al-Hirawi *[Beirut Radio]* 45
Juppe Meets Maronite Patriarch *[Beirut Radio]* 46
Visa Office Seen as Sign of U.S. 'Recognition' *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 16 Nov]* 46
Israelis Reopen Crossing Points; Mine Explodes *[VOL]* 46
Israeli Armored Convoy Uses Machine Guns *[Beirut Radio]* 47
Hizballah Denies Kidnapping Danes *[MENA]* 47
PSP Lauds Islamic Resistance Operation *[VOM]* 47
GLF Rejects Wage Adjustment, Threatens Strike *[Beirut Radio]* 47

SYRIA

Al-Asad's Talks With France's Juppe Reported *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 48
Christopher Tour Awaited 'With Much Interest' *[Damascus Radio]* 48
Iranian Revolutionary Guards Commander Pays Visit 49
Al-Asad Receives Reza'i *[Damascus Radio]* 49
Al-Asad Stresses Need To Expand Ties *[Tehran Radio]* 49
Reza'i Meets Shams al-Din, Junblatt, Jibril *[IRNA]* 49
Request To Abandon Peace Process Rebuffed *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 19 Nov]* 50
Reza'i Concludes Meetings, Departs *[Damascus Radio]* 50
Turkish Foreign Minister Denies Issuing Threats *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 50
Yemeni Foreign Minister Arrives for Talks 18 Nov *[Damascus Radio]* 51
Al-Shar', Japanese Official Discuss Peace Process *[Damascus Radio]* 51
Assembly Speaker Meets Chinese Parliamentarians *[Damascus Radio]* 51
Ceremony Marks Corrective Movement 23d Anniversary 52
Al-Zu'bi Delivers Address on Peace *[Damascus Radio]* 52
Party Official on Peace Issues *[Damascus TV]* 52

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Islamic Central Council Members Arrive in Kabul *[Kabul Radio]* 54
• Ahmad Gilani on Government's Legitimacy *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 5 Nov]* 54

Bangladesh

Awami Leader's China Visit Termed Significant *[THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER 14 Nov]* 59

India

Accord Signed on Iran-India Gas Pipeline Study *[Delhi Radio]* 60
Article Views Country's Nuclear Policy *[INDIAN DEFENCE REVIEW, Oct]* 60

Iran

Mohtashami Stresses 'Resistance' to U.S. *[JAHAN-E ESLAM 3 Nov]* 64
Editorial on Struggle Against U.S. 'Arrogance' *[JAHAN-E ESLAM 3 Nov]* 66
Paper Criticizes Interior Minister's Ban on March *[JAHAN-E ESLAM 4 Nov]* 67
SALAM's Stance, Ties With U.S. Criticized *[KEYHAN 2 Nov]* 68
SALAM on Press Freedom, Raja'i-Khorasani Letter *[SALAM 3 Nov]* 69
French Prestige 'Hurt' by Asylum to 'Terrorists' *[IRNA]* 69
Editorial Assails France's Stance on MKO *[TEHRAN TIMES 11 Nov]* 69
Remains of Antonov Crash Victims Not Identified *[IRNA]* 70
Belarusian Official, Habibi Discuss Relations
[EQTESAD-E KHORASAN ECONOMIC WEEKLY 13 Nov] 70
Khorasan Goods Sold at Almaty Trade Fair
[EQTESAD-E KHORASAN ECONOMIC WEEKLY 13 Nov] 70
Delegation From Turkmenistan Discusses Transportation Issues
[EQTESAD-E KHORASAN ECONOMIC WEEKLY 13 Nov] 71
Pakistan's Benazir Bhutto To Visit Tehran 'Soon' *[IRNA]* 71
Cabinet Holds Extraordinary Session, Discusses Farms *[Tehran Radio]* 71

Nepal

Opposition Communists Demand Koirala Resignation *[AFP]* 71

Pakistan

Sharif: PPP Stalling Nuclear Program *[THE MUSLIM 18 Nov]* 72
PPP Defends Appointment of Foreign Minister *[THE NEWS 18 Nov]* 72
Naval Strength Unaffected by U.S. Frigates Exit *[THE MUSLIM 18 Nov]* 73
Foreign Diplomats Said Involved in Drug Smuggling *[JANG 18 Nov]* 73

Arab-Israeli Talks

Sha'th Notes 'Considerable Progress' in Cairo Talks

NC1811210493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1820 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 18 Nov (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser, has stated that considerable progress has been made in the talks of the Gaza-Jericho Subcommittee in Cairo over the past two weeks. He added that the Palestinian and Israeli sides had finalized a number of items in the executive program of the Gaza-Jericho agreement, with the exception of three main issues: supervision of the crossing points between Gaza and Egypt as well as Jericho and Jordan; the release of the Palestinian detainees; and the geographical area of Jericho from which Israeli troops will withdraw.

In a news conference held at the foreign correspondents' club in Cairo today, Sha'th added that most of the other points related to the withdrawal before the transfer of authority to the Palestinians, organization of the aviation lines, telecommunications, and transportation have been agreed upon. He expressed his belief that if the talks continue at the present pace, the protocol for withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho could be signed as scheduled on 13 December. This would allow for the Israeli withdrawal to be completed within the specified deadline, that is, four months, and the establishment of the Palestinian authority in the area by 13 April, he added.

Sha'th discussed in detail the problems that still obstruct the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. He said that Israel still insists on maintaining troops along the borders between Jericho and Jordan and Gaza and Egypt, something that the Palestinians reject. A disagreement still exists on the Jericho area from which Israel will withdraw, he added. While Israel believes this area means the City of Jericho, which is 17 square km, the Palestinians say that under Jordanian jurisdiction, the Jericho region was 340 square km and under the British mandate it was 400 square km, he added, noting that the Palestinians are willing to accept the Jordanian administration's area.

Sha'th pointed out that the talks were suspended two weeks ago because of Israel's insistence on maintaining military presence in a vast area of Gaza, some 170 square km. He noted that this runs contrary to the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. However, this point was settled in the last round of negotiations and the Israeli military presence in Gaza will be limited to the area in and around the Israeli settlements, he added. Sha'th pointed out that although the Palestinians and the Israelis have up to two years to resolve the issue of the settlements, he believes that it represents an obstacle to peace in the region.

Sha'th reiterated once again that the Palestinian side will not sign the withdrawal protocol before obtaining a written commitment from the Israeli Government for the release of all political prisoners. He added: We have previously obtained several verbal commitments in Oslo, Washington, and Cairo, but now we must have a written Israeli commitment to implement it. He pointed out that talks held between teams of five or at most eight members from each side and away from the media publicity lead to positive and encouraging results. However, he stressed that the results reached in this talks will be made public.

Dr. Sha'th expressed hope that progress will be made on the Jordanian, Syrian, and Lebanese tracks. He said that the success of the Palestinian-Israeli talks will create progress on these tracks and that progress on the latter tracks will bolster the Palestinian-Israeli talks, especially as the Palestinian and Israeli sides feel that they have a common interest in achieving progress in their talks and on all the other tracks.

On the acts of violence in the occupied territories, Dr. Sha'th said: Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's condemnation of the killing of an Israeli citizen or settler is natural and in accordance with the PLO's commitment in the Declaration of Principles agreement. But the Israeli Government has a greater commitment that does not stop at the condemnation of the acts of violence carried out by armed settlers against unarmed Palestinian citizens, but they should intervene and stop these provocative actions that are undermining the peace efforts. He added: We believe that speeding up the release of Palestinian detainees, the implementation of the Israeli withdrawal, and the establishment of Palestinian-Israeli political and economic cooperation are the only way to stop the acts of violence.

Dr. Sha'th went on to say in his news conference, held at the Foreign Correspondents Center, that the Palestinian police force will take full charge of maintaining security in the areas from which Israel will withdraw and that the Israeli forces that will be deployed around the settlements will be armed with police weapons and not military ones.

Referring to the meetings of the economic committee between the two sides held in Paris last week, the Palestinian official said that this committee has made progress in the agreement on common economic issues, such as the reopening of banks, the reorganization of customs and prices between the two sides, and the movement of goods. He added that Palestinian President 'Arafat and the Palestinian leadership have at the same time started to lay down the framework for the national Palestinian authority's institutions in Gaza and Jericho. He added that President 'Arafat's current tour of European countries aims to achieve financial support for the newborn Palestinian authority, which is important for the success of the agreement.

Dr. Sha'th praised Egypt's positive and important role in giving impetus to the talks on the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. He referred in this respect

to Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa's visit to Israel to resolve the difficulties that faced the negotiations and President Mubarak's meeting with President 'Arafat in Cairo later. He thanked the Egyptian Government for hosting and sponsoring the Gaza-Jericho subcommittee's talks in Cairo.

On the continued opposition to the agreement by some Palestinian organizations, Sha'th said: Any agreement must have its opponents but we are now trying to move from the mentality of the revolution to the mentality of the state and the establishment of a national, democratic authority that will lead to the establishment of the Palestinian state which, he added, is inevitably coming.

He said that there will be fewer people opposing the agreement the more progress is made in implementing it and this progress is the guarantee for the success of any agreement.

In reply to another question about the importance of the case of the Israeli spy 'Adnan Yasin, Dr. Nabil Sha'th said that spying is normal between enemies and countries but the important thing is that useful lessons should be learned from it.

Shahaq Notes Progress, Not Breakthrough, in Talks

TA1811175093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Excerpt] Major General Amnon Shahaq, the deputy chief of staff, who is also head of the Israeli delegation for talks with the Palestinians, does not believe that an impressive breakthrough has been achieved in the Cairo talks. At the same time progress has been achieved and there is a process of understanding. Our military affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports:

[Begin recording] [Menashe] Maj. Gen. Amnon Shahaq says there is a process of better understanding between the two delegations:

[Shahaq] Progress is certainly being made in the talks. Today we have certainly advanced far beyond the opening positions of the two sides. I think that today the two sides are much more realistic about what is going to take place eventually. We must remember something here: There is no reciprocity here; we are on the giving side, they on the receiving. From this point of view there is no symmetry in the talks. We are giving them what we have agreed to give and what we believe to be appropriate, while preserving what we think necessary for us to keep in order to fulfill the Oslo agreement.

[Menashe] Shahaq says that there are differences of opinion, but on some issues the Israeli delegation is explicit and forthright, both in its dealing with the Palestinian delegation and in statements to the Israeli public:

[Shahaq] On some security-related issues we will not budge even one inch. All the other things we promised in Oslo we will implement to the letter. We want to create a situation which will permit the Palestinian side to build what it needs in Gaza and Jericho in the best possible and most efficient manner, because this will eventually pave the way to maximum normalization.

[Menashe] Does this include the issue of a prisoner release?

[Shahaq] This issue is certainly one of the issues under negotiation. It is being discussed under the category of confidence-building measures. Let me point out, however, that this category also includes such issues as stabbings and stone throwing. Confidence-building measures includes everything, the issue of a prisoner release included. It also includes timely denunciation of incidents on both sides, when this proves necessary. We must bear in mind that there is a big difference between assassinations and between all the other things, serious as they may be.

The Palestinians explained to us—and this must be crystal clear to all those perpetrating terror attacks—that whatever is included in our agreements—and we will reach agreements and understandings, the issue of prisoners included—that no agreement will apply to whoever carries out any act of terrorism after 13 December.

[Menashe] What about the Palestinians' ability to implement their authority on the ground?

[Shahaq] This is their problem and they will have to deal with it courageously. If they fail to do so it will also be our problem, and we will have to find the appropriate answers. [passage omitted]

Urges Palestinians To Implement Control

TA1811173593 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Interview with Major General Amnon Shahaq, head of the Israeli delegation to the Gaza and Jericho talks and deputy chief of staff, by Netan'el Semrik, on 18 November; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Shahaq] The reason, or the excuse, they [the Palestinians] have been giving is that they are not here yet; when they come to the territories, they will run things differently. I believe there is a lot they can do even when they are not here. I believe their men, or those who claim to follow their instructions, are here. If we want the agreement to succeed, it is important that they implement their control over the territory, and the sooner the better. Not only against criminals, as they have been trying. I understand that it is difficult for them. It may seem like acts of collaboration. They will have to deal with their difficulties. It is part of their responsibility, and part of acting on their responsibility. We are yet to see their ability to make good on their responsibilities. We demand this of them and, furthermore, they will have to prove they can do it. I believe they are absolutely clear that they will have to stand up to this responsibility,

and that they should provide security for everyone living in the area, Israelis and Palestinians. The entire agreement depends on the issue of security.

[Semrik] In view of the recent wave of terror attacks, what can and what is the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] doing to reduce the number of the attacks?

[Shahaq] We have been through waves of terror; attacks are carried out even today, and they are all painful. We are in charge of the territory and we will keep trying and we will find an answer to this. We will capture some of the people. Unfortunately, we will capture some of the perpetrators after the fact. This seems to be the time when the Palestinians opposing the agreement dare and try more. We will fight this. All the security forces are dealing with this constantly. I believe we will overcome this wave as well.

[Semrik] How do you view the settlers' recent riots?

[Shahaq] It would not be right to compare murders and illegal riots that should not take place and should not be allowed to take place. It is also absolutely clear that 18-year-old soldiers find it hard to cope with rioting Israelis. The police are involved in this with us. We will find an effective answer to this as well. We will allow no one to take the law into their hands.

[Semrik] Do the Palestinians today accept the IDF presence in the areas of the autonomy, outside the Jewish settlements?

[Shahaq] There are issues, regarding security, about which we will make no compromise and will not budge an inch from our stands. We will deliver everything else we promised in Oslo to the letter. We will seek to create a state of affairs in which the Palestinians are able to set up whatever they need in Jericho and Gaza in the best and most efficient way possible. This will eventually allow as normal as possible a coexistence. Each side presents opening stands, and the other side knows they are just that. I believe that today we are far beyond the opening stands, and both parties today have a much more realistic understanding of what will happen eventually. We give what we believe we agreed to give and believe it is right to give. At the same time, we keep to ourselves that which we believe we should keep in order to carry out the Oslo agreement, that is: the security of the settlements, the safety of Israelis, and external security. There are many other issues with which we are dealing, but I believe our stands on these three things are perfectly clear to the other side.

[Semrik] Do you believe that in some 25 days you will be able to wrap up the agreement, now that the talks are being held in secret at an unknown site?

[Shahaq] I believe the issue is not wrapping things up. It is making a good agreement. No date is sacred, although I would be very glad to reach an agreement by 13 December. Time is running out and 13 December is drawing near. I believe attaining a stable, strong, well-defined agreement which would make the parties feel good is more important than meeting the deadline. I would not like a deadline to rush the parties into finalizing something that will have to be debated later.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Maghreb Union Expresses Regret at Libya Sanctions

PM181116Z093 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 17 Nov 93 p 4

[Report on interview with Mohamed Amamou, secretary general of the Arab Maghreb Union, by unidentified correspondent in Riyadh; date not given]

[Excerpts] Mohamed Amamou, secretary general of the Arab Maghreb Union [UMA], has expressed his regret over the Security Council's decision to toughen the sanctions against Libya. He expects UMA leaders to declare in their upcoming summit in Tunis their states' solidarity with Libya in this crisis and their eagerness to find a peaceful and honorable solution to the Lockerbie crisis. In an interview with AL-HAYAH in Saudi Arabia, Amamou noted that the UMA states consider the recent Palestinian-Israeli accord a "basic step," emphasizing the need to implement Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425. [passage omitted]

Asked about the UMA's position on the sanctions against Libya, he said that the Lockerbie crisis "has made a big impact in the Arab Maghreb. UMA leaders and foreign ministers have closely monitored this issue and have continued their efforts to secure a peaceful solution based on international legitimacy that guarantees security and stability for the Arab Maghreb region. As is well known, the UMA leaders included in their final statement in the previous summit a clause on the Lockerbie issue, in which they emphasized their countries' solidarity with Libya in the crisis and their determination to continue to work to achieve a peaceful solution to it. Following the escalation represented in the new resolution adopted by the Security Council (toughening of the sanctions), without doubt the same situation is going to be repeated, especially as UMA foreign ministers are members of the Arab seven-man committee entrusted with finding an honorable peaceful solution to the crisis, whose has adversely affected not only Libya, but the Maghreb countries and the countries neighboring Libya."

Asked about his position on the decision to toughen the sanctions, he said: "We can only regret this decision. UMA states have always worked to prevent such an escalation. They also submitted a request to the Security Council—which coincided with the Arab League request—to work to find a way out of this crisis through dialogue, as Libya had displayed some willingness, first by responding to the Security Council resolutions and

them by its willingness to resolve the crisis through dialogue so as to guarantee its dignity and sovereignty."

Asked about Libya's accusation that UMA states have not adopted the required position toward it in this crisis, Amamou said: "Since the beginning of the Lockerbie crisis UMA states have been working to find a peaceful solution to it. All this work is done with the participation of the brothers in Libya."

On the UMA's position on the Gaza-Jericho agreement, he said that "the UMA participated in the Madrid conference. Since the agreement was signed in Washington 13 September, the Maghreb states have been saying that it represents a basic step toward working to achieve a peaceful solution. We hope that work will continue in order to achieve the required objectives on the basis of international legitimacy, based on the land for peace principle and Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and we must add Resolution 425 concerning Lebanon. We hope that the peace process will continue, especially as the Arab and and Palestinian sides are making efforts to achieve peace in the region. But the Israeli side still has to do what is likely to help this process to achieve its desired aims." [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

'Serious Crisis' Reported in PLO Leadership

TA1911085293 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 19 Nov 93 pp 1, 8

[Report by Arab affairs correspondent Smadar Peri]

[Excerpt] A serious crisis has recently created a rift in the top PLO echelons, causing severe tension and a total estrangement between 'Arafat and members of senior PLO ranks.

At least three members of the most senior PLO-Tunis leadership who were involved in the Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement have been removed from their posts and were absent from meetings held at 'Arafat's Tunis office in recent days.

The three are Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, head of the Israel desk, who navigated the Palestinian team's secret Oslo track; Hakam Bal'awi, the ambassador in Tunis, who was in charge of PLO security; and Ahmad Quray', alias Abu-al-'Ala', in charge of finance.

The tension between 'Arafat and Abu-Mazin arose as a result of the latter's consistent demand to conduct businesslike negotiations with Israel toward the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho agreement. This insistence caused total alienation between them in the past two weeks. 'Arafat insisted on being the one to give the orders to chief delegate Nabil Sha'th and, as a result, Sha'th was given instructions contradicting those he had received from Abu-Mazin.

When the disagreements intensified, 'Arafat ordered that Abu-Mazin no longer be given the delegation's reports on talks with the Israelis in Cairo and Taba. In reaction, Abu-Mazin—who had been mentioned as No. 2 in the PLO leadership—disappeared, closeting himself in his Tunis home and staying away from the Palestinian leadership's meetings. Knowledgeable sources claim that it was 'Arafat who removed Abu-Mazin and no longer invites him to meetings at which the Palestinian delegation receives instructions on negotiations with Israel.

Hakam Bal'awi was distanced from 'Arafat's entourage in the wake of the exposure three weeks ago of spy 'Adnan Yasin, whom the PLO suspected of having operated on behalf of the Mosad. After Yasin was detained, Bal'awi was summoned to a series of "questioning" sessions, and he received an unequivocal message from 'Arafat that he should assume "ministerial responsibility" for the espionage affair.

The third arena of tension—the one between 'Arafat and Abu-al-'Ala—caused a day-long suspension of the Israel-PLO economic talks in Paris last week, to which the Palestinians reported in a reduced forum. It has been learned that 'Arafat surprised Abu-al-'Ala by appointing two "supervisor-trustees" for the economic talks. The two are Faruq Qaddumi and Hani al-Hasan, who are known for their vocal objection to the Gaza-Jericho agreement. It has been further learned that 'Arafat has appointed himself the supreme overseer of the economic talks, in a bid to curb Abu-al-'Ala's powers.

The position of Hasan 'Asfur, Abu-Mazin's political adviser, who participated in the secret Oslo talks, has also been weakened as a result of the rift in the upper PLO echelons and of Abu-Mazin's having been ousted from his strong position. 'Asfur complained last week that he and Abu-Mazin have been receiving constant death threats, "and we do not know as yet whether the threats are issued by opponents of the agreement from outside the PLO or by new rivals from within the organization."

The estrangement between 'Arafat and Bassam Abu-Sharif is also continuing, and the telephones in the latter's Tunis residence have been disconnected on the pretext that "there is no budget to cover back debts."

Meanwhile, the names of Bal'awi and Abu-al-'Ala, who had been designated as the interior and finance ministers, have been struck off 'Arafat's senior appointments list to the autonomy council to be established in Jericho. New lists were compiled in Tunis in recent days, featuring the names of 10 Tunis functionaries and 10 West Bank and Gaza Strip residents. No job description is inscribed next to Abu-Mazin's name on the list. [passage omitted]

PLO Demands End To Israeli Settler 'Crimes'

LD1811182893 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Statement by Palestinian official spokesman; place and date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] The Israeli settlers' actions and crimes against our Palestinian people, its properties and sanctities, have escalated recently. These crimes are being committed before the eyes and ears of the Israeli occupation army, which sometimes offers facilities for further killings, destruction of homes, and spreading an atmosphere of terror on a large scale.

These acts are completely at variance with the commitments made by the Israeli Government, and with the substance of the agreement. They indicate an intention to encourage further terror and violence against our unarmed people. The PLO holds the Israeli Government, as an occupation force, fully responsible for the continuation of these violations and transgressions, and it calls for an immediate end to them. The PLO also affirms that our people will continue to work with all its resources to confront these criminal aggressions and put an end to them.

The acts of the settlers show that this alien body established in the Palestinian land will be nothing but a source of a continuous cycle of violence and sabotage of the peace process. The PLO stresses the need for the international parties sponsoring the peace process in turn to assume their role effectively to put an immediate end to these transgressions and violations.

Peace Accord Endorsed by 66 Percent of Fatah Council

JN1711130193 Amman AKHIR KHABAR in Arabic 16-17 Nov 93 p 21

[By Fathi al-Barqawi in Tunis]

[Excerpt] The Fatah Revolutionary Council held an ordinary session in Tunis last Friday [12 November] and Saturday, attended by Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat.

The most important outcome of the meeting was the endorsement by the largest and most important PLO faction of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement that was signed in Washington on 13 September.

AKHIR KHABAR has learned that 46 out of the 70 members who attended the latest meeting approved the agreement, while 24 members either abstained or opposed it. This means that 66 percent of members approve the agreement—a percentage that demonstrates the democracy which prevailed the deliberations and voting, and about which President 'Arafat expressed great satisfaction.

The deliberations and voting also revealed that that all attending members of the Fatah Central Committee without exception approved the agreement, including Faruq Qaddumi, known as Abu-al-Lutf, who is the secretary of the Central Committee and head of the PLO Political Department, and who adopted a different position during the first weeks after the accord was signed. This will bolster Fatah's position with the Palestinian masses and entrench integration within Fatah itself and with the other allied organizations and those included in the PLO structure and establishments.

The Fatah Revolutionary Council discussed a number of issues, including the formation of 10 committees to deal with merging of popular organizations, return and refugees, and others issues, in addition to a committee on security. The security issue was expected to be discussed extensively following the espionage case revealed recently. However Abu-'Ammar ['Arafat] convinced the other members that there was no real need to discuss this issue, since it presented no danger and was something to be expected as long as the conflict continues. [passage omitted]

30 Fatah Hawks Stricken From 'Wanted' List

NC1911073893 Paris AFP in English 2333 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Text] Jerusalem, Nov 19 (AFP)—A Palestinian activist from the PLO's mainstream Fatah faction was accidentally killed by one of his comrades as they attempted to kidnap a "collaborator" in the Gaza Strip, Palestinian sources said Thursday [18 November].

Mu'in 'Abd-al-Bari, 23, from the Shaykh Radwan neighborhood of Gaza City was badly wounded Wednesday when a fellow Palestinian accidentally shot him in the head. He died Thursday at Tel Aviv's Tel Hashomer hospital, they said.

'Abd-al-Bari and three comrades had wanted to kidnap another Palestinian suspected of colloborating with Israeli authorities.

Family members of the suspected collaborator pelted the four masked Fatah activists. In self-defense, one of them pointed his gun and a inadvertently [as received] pulled the trigger, hitting 'Abd-al-Bari, they said.

His comrades rushed him to the al-Shifa' hospital in Gaza City from where an Israeli army helicopter transferred him to Tel Hashomer.

'Abd-al-Bari was a member of the Fatah Falcons [Hawks], the movement's strike force, they said.

Elsewhere, five Palestinians suspected of membership in Fatah were arrested Thursday by Israeli border guards at the Erez border point between Israel and occupied Gaza Strip, military sources said.

A routine search uncovered a Beretta revolver, a cartridge with eight bullets, a knife and axes, they said, adding that the five had been arrested for interrogation.

The Israeli army meanwhile has removed the names of 30 Palestinians from a list of Fatah Falcons wanted by the authorities, a Fatah official told AFP.

He said a military administration official in Gaza gave him the list of the 30 who will no longer be sought by the army and who must go to the offices of the administration to sort out their affairs.

There was no official confirmation from the Israelis.

The 30 were wanted for activities tied to the anti-Israeli uprising in the occupied territories.

Fatah Dissidents in Lebanon Call For Armed Struggle

NC1811233193 Paris AFP in English 2325 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Text] Sidon, Lebanon, Nov 19 (AFP)—Dissidents within PLO Chief Yasir 'Arafat's Fatah movement in Lebanon for the first time Thursday [18 November] condemned the PLO-Israeli autonomy accord as capitulation, saying the armed struggle against Israel should be maintained.

The statement issued in the southern port city of Sidon echoed a similar call issued Wednesday by Fatah in the Israeli-occupied territories.

On Wednesday, a statement purportedly signed by Fatah and distributed in the West Bank town of Ramallah called on Palestinians to kill Jewish settlers following continued attacks on Arabs.

"If peace is to proceed over our dead bodies and over our dignity then to hell with this peace," it said.

The Fatah in Lebanon dissidents charged the September 13 agreement for autonomy starting in the West Bank town of Jericho and the Gaza Strip was a "sellout of Palestine to the Jews.

"What was called a peace accord is nothing but capitulation," aimed at maintaining Israeli occupation and undermining Palestinian rights, it said.

"The revolution of stones (intifadah) is the only real face of our struggle to put an end to the Zionist presence," the statement added.

"The intifadah is the Palestinian people's choice. It is the response to the Gaza-Jericho accord which is aimed at breaking up our unity," it said.

It stressed that the armed struggle should continue until Palestinians recover all their rights, including the establishment of an independent state with Jerusalem as its capital.

'Arafat last week condemned the killing of a Jewish settler in the West Bank by Fatah militants, triggering the anger of Palestinians in the occupied territories and in south Lebanon.

The Palestine Liberation Organization chief renounced terrorism and all acts of violence in a mutual agreement with Israel which he signed a few days before the historic peace accord.

Jibril Demands Referendum on PLO-Israel Accord

JN1811203793 Clandestine Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1750 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Text] Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC], has said the agreement signed by 'Arafat and Rabin will not produce peace. It is the height of injustice done to our people, he added.

In a statement to a Danish press team, Jibril noted that this agreement was hammered out between 'Arafat and Rabin under U.S. auspices. The Palestinian people were not consulted about this deal, he said.

Jibril wondered: Have 'Arafat and the world community been informed that the Palestinian people endorse this agreement?

In his statement, Ahmad Jibril said that this agreement must be put to our people in a referendum so that their views on it may be known. He also underscored the continuation of struggle.

DFLP Secretary General Discusses Self-Rule

NC1711120093 Beirut AL-DIYAR in Arabic 5 Nov 93 p 3

["Second" of an unspecified number of parts of a report on an interview with DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah by Muwaffaq Madani; place and date not given]

[Text] Hawatimah said: The entire team was put aside and another negotiating team was formed in Oslo and Cairo. This second team agreed to discuss the Gaza-Jericho idea and accepted what 'Abd-al-Shafi and his team rejected in the third round.

Thus, 'Arafat responded to what the Israeli governments had been offering for 17 years, namely Gaza first. He responded to what the Labor Party had publicly offered since 1977. He responded to Rabin's wish that he would wake up one day and see his dream of Gaza sinking in the sea come true. This offer was made to the Egyptian administration during the days of al-Sadat as well as Mubarak. It was also made to Jordan in 1977. Everyone rejected the offer, because it would divide the unity of the occupied territories and divide the people inside and outside the occupied territories.

It is limited self-rule for the 1 million inhabitants of Gaza and Jericho living in an area under 400 square km. It is limited self- rule for 362 square km in Gaza Strip and approximately 21 square km in Jericho out of 6,000 square km of land occupied in 1967. Consequently,

Israel will get rid of 1 million people who live on 4 percent of the land occupied in 1967 or 1.6 percent of the total Palestinian land.

This limited self-rule applies only to the people. It does not lead to Israel's withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Jericho, but to the redeployment of the Israeli forces. The Palestinian self-rule police will take over while the Israeli forces will be redeployed in all the strategic points around Gaza and Jericho. In the Taba talks on implementing the Gaza-Jericho plan, Israel submitted a new map dividing the Gaza Strip into four areas—an area in the north containing the Israeli settlements, an area in the south linked with Israel, an area in the center, and the fourth area serving as a big ghetto surrounded by 21 km of electric fence. This fence will have eight gates, some of them to serve the Israeli settlers and the others the Palestinians of the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

This is the same "ghetto" theory that the white government in Pretoria imposed on the black African people for scores of years. But, thanks to the uprising in South Africa, the Pretoria government was forced to establish democracy and eliminate apartheid.

Again, we are before a difficult test. Either the intifadah and our popular struggle will continue or the agreement of surrender and its conditions will be passed. In the letters exchanged, 'Arafat pledged to suppress the intifadah in the name of stopping violence, discarding terrorism, and crushing the violators.

Hawatmah was asked: What will you do? Will you form another PLO?

He answered: We still say: No to two PLO's and no to an alternative PLO, because this will mean giving the PLO, which is recognized by the Arabs and the international community, as a gift to Yasir 'Arafat. We have historically rejected this. We insist that the PLO is a national coalition, as its program and charter say.

'Arafat destroyed the national coalition and tore up the common denominators—self-determination, an independent state, and return. He reneged on the PLO program and introduced a new program represented by the Gaza-Jericho agreement and the letters exchanged between him and Rabin.

The dialogue started in the diaspora. In light of the dispute over the Madrid formula, various forms of coalition were formed inside the occupied homeland and in the diaspora, culminating in the birth of the 10 factions framework, which agrees on the struggle against the self-rule plan, insistence upon return, and the non-settlement of the Palestinians in Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon. The alternative to the Palestinian land is not Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan, although we do belong to an Arab nation struggling to reach a federal democratic state of regions and peoples while maintaining the special character of each people.

Within the 10 factions framework, broad cooperation emerged between the Islamists and the other factions inside the occupied territories. In the diaspora, cooperation among the 10 factions formed a popular stance against self-rule and the settlement of Palestinians elsewhere.

Cooperation then expanded to include the Arab Liberation Front, the Abu-al-'Abbas group, and others.

To foil the agreement and introduce the national and pan-Arab alternative through continuing the intifadah, on 10 July 1993, we expanded the national leadership of the intifadah after the withdrawal of the Fatah Movement. The intifadah is now being staged under the command of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP].

Recently, in the Yarmuk camp [in Damascus], we agreed to finish expanding the intifadah command to include the Islamists and we turn it into a national-Islamic intifadah. We also agreed to form organizational structures and bodies and to present proposals for a general congress inside and outside the occupied territories. Conferences will produce local and national leaders in the occupied territories and the diaspora and produce the political national leadership of the entire people on the basis of known Palestinian conventions. The conferences will also come up with practical steps to rebuild the PLO institutions on democratic bases.

Hawatmah added: We insist on adopting the other side of the Palestinian bureaucratic policy pursued by 'Arafat, who dwarfed, ridiculed, and destroyed the institutions. The democratization of the Palestinian institutions was obstructed thanks to the resistance of the 'Arafat-led Palestinian bureaucracy, the resistance of the occupation, and the resistance of many Arab regimes that threw their weight behind 'Arafat and his policy. We know some of these Arab regimes are now suffering from 'Arafat's policy.

We will not carry out a bureaucratic operation behind the people's backs, one that clearly adds to the suffering of the PLO institutions. We say again that we do not want anyone to exercise the other face of bureaucracy by surprising the people with a particular political program.

We inside and outside the occupied territories are bound by a pledge not to do this. We must continue this policy, promoting and activating it without retreat by the brothers in the 10 Palestinian factions, without announcing political programs outside the framework of popular conferences, and without imposing leaders.

We say that these conferences can succeed in the occupied territories, where the intifadah exists. Those who stage the intifadah and gather tens of thousands of people for political rallies can hold the general national congress in the occupied territories, where all trends and all willing figures can participate. This congress should lay down the political program for the occupied territories.

If this is difficult, people elected by the national conferences inside and outside the occupied territories can be the representatives at the congress, that is, if it is difficult to gather hundreds of people.

So, we were surprised to see some forms of hasty, frantic, and untimely calls blocking the promotion and activation of the process involving the 10 factions and the dialogue with many active figures, including Edward Sa'id and Shaykh 'Ikrimah Sabri in the occupied territories, Father George Makhluf, Reverend 'Awdah al-Rantisi, and Nasir 'Azuri in the United States, Wahid al-Hamdallah, Bassam al-Shak'ah, Dr. 'Abd-al-Latif al-Hajj, and many others.

We were surprised to hear hasty calls like those mentioned in one Lebanese newspaper, which predicted that a national-Islamic Palestinian alliance would be announced on Tuesday [9 November], or those mentioned in Jordanian newspapers, which published a Hamas paper, creating an atmosphere that does not serve the process.

We are trying to make a persistent action cohesive, based on a tangible national foundation, to foil the Gaza-Jericho agreement, just as the Lebanese people did when they rejected the capitulatory 17 May [1983] accord. It was ratified by the president and leader of the strongest Maronite militia, every Lebanese government member from every sect, and all but two Chamber of Deputies members and one member who abstained.

The national and Islamic forces in Lebanon worked hard to foil the accord. They found support and they succeeded.

In the Palestinian movement and its masses, the Rabin-'Arafat agreement enjoys under 1 percent of the support enjoyed by the 17 May accord.

Eight out of the 18 PLO Executive Committee members rejected the Gaza-Jericho agreement and the PLO Central Council, which convened 40 days later, after initialing the agreement in Oslo on 19 August and signing it in Washington on 13 September, was divided, despite the Camp David halo placed upon the whole exercise.

The Gaza-Jericho agreement was boycotted by 28 members of the Central Council and by both the PFLP and DFLP. Then the Arab Liberation Front withdrew, eight other members opposed the agreement, and 10 members of those present did not vote. We find that even the PLO Central Council did not vote in favor of the agreement, despite the fact that the observers voted for it. If we check numbers closely, we find that there was no majority. The whole world now knows that this agreement does not have the unanimous approval of the Palestinian people or that of the national coalition inside and outside the PLO.

I say that we need to continue our fervent efforts to topple the agreement stealthily and away from media games. Our people are groaning under the pressure of the bureaucratic failures of the upper echelons, failures of 'Arafat, the 10 Palestinian factions, and other segments.

We need to return to popular legitimacy and test the people's opinion through congresses where a unified leadership will be created that will work to continue the intifadah and struggle to topple the capitulationist agreement, establish just and comprehensive peace, and give our people their national and legitimate rights.

Hawatimah said that there are attempts inside the United Nations by the United States and Israel through letters exchanged between Rabin and 'Arafat to annul 32 UN resolutions. These resolutions were approved during the rise of the revolution and our people throughout 30 years of struggle with the backing of the Nonaligned countries, the Soviet Union, and the countries of the democratic movement from Argentina to Thailand.

Therefore, I wish to tell you that we are about to return to popular legitimacy. The national congress of the people within and outside [the occupied territories] will elect the preparatory committee that will work to reconstruct the PLO's institutions based on democracy.

'Arafat has divorced himself from his own self by destroying the national coalition and its common denominators. We are fighting the Rabin-'Arafat program as we have done since the eve of the Madrid conference. We struggled long and hard to maintain a joint national program and national coalition and to spread democracy throughout the institutions of the PLO. Therefore, the PFLP, Palestinian Popular Struggle Front, DFLP, and Palestinian Arab Liberation Front say no to this program. We need to stop it and reconstruct the Palestinian institutions.

Mr. Hawatimah was asked what the alternative would be if the Gaza-Jericho agreement is overturned. He answered: We are struggling to focus on the alternative, which is based on attempts to establish a just and equitable peace in the Arab-Israeli and Palestinian-Israeli conflict according to the resolutions of international legitimacy. There are differences within the Palestinian movement over this point. 'Arafat's program is not that of the PLO. This is why Rabin recognized an organization that is not the PLO, an organization that has abandoned its program, as he said. In opposition to these moves, there is a large group struggling to find common denominators so that we can present a practical alternative. There is a trend to stop at the limits of the strategic principles without presenting tangible solutions to the issues presented locally, nationally, regionally, and internationally. Therefore, this group is satisfied with adhering to the PLO charter, thus contradicting the struggle of 25 years and the facts of this era. We need to provide practical examples. We within the DFLP and within the framework of the unified front are seeking to develop a joint national and pan-Arab alternative to the Gaza-Jericho agreement.

This means that it is not enough to merely say no to the Gaza-Jericho agreement or to only reveal its defects and

the astounding concessions 'Arafat has made. We need to present a national alternative that stipulates the continuance of the intifadah. Second, we need to insist on a comprehensive and balanced peace based on the full rights of the Palestinian people. Only then can we present the joint pan-Arab alternative through the cooperation of this national Palestinian course and the Arab cordon states to establish a comprehensive peace and oppose what Rabin demands: that Jerusalem is the eternal capital of his state; that there will be no return to the 1967 borders; and that he will annex 60 percent of the West Bank. He thus activates the Yigal Allon project. This is why he announced that the Jordan River is the border of Israel and that the settlements will remain. The new Israeli budget contains hundreds of millions of Israeli funds to build new settlements. In the Gaza Strip, Rabin is annexing 10 percent of the land.

All this contradicts the resolutions of Palestinian and Arab legitimacy starting with the Rabat resolutions, moving on to the Baghdad resolutions, and ending with the international legitimacy resolutions.

We are struggling to have that as an alternative. The basic pillar of this struggle is the intifadah. We will struggle on an international level to reconstruct the international stance in our favor in accordance with the legitimate resolutions that the international community believes in and that may be erased under U.S. and Israeli pressure.

Frankly speaking, the U.S. State Department has sent messages to the PLO Political Department in Tunis and to foreign ministries in all countries. In the messages, the State Department has called for reconsidering the UN resolutions concerning the Arab-Israeli and Palestinian-Israeli conflicts. This would make us powerless and would enable the U.S. Administration and Israel to impose their hegemony on the Arab region in accordance with the new world order.

This new order will convert the Middle East into a U.S. oil lake and will enable Israel to develop its security role into an economic-technological role under the banner of a new Middle East and a new Marshall Plan. The U.S. Administration and Israel seek to make the Palestinian side, which signed the submission agreement, a bridge so that they can penetrate the depth of the Arab homeland. This will make the Palestinian role no more than a broker or a retailer.

We cannot compare the Palestinian economy and that of Israel. The Palestinian economy is only 1 percent of Israel's economy, according to the statistics prepared by the (Jasi) Institute for Strategic Studies in Tel Aviv. Moreover, Israel's budget for 1993 is one and a half times the total budgets of Egypt, Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon for that year. Their national income for 1993 will be $55 billion while Israel's national income will be $70 billion. Therefore, the new Middle East, which they have been propagating, would mean Israel's superiority supported by the United States.

Asked about the possible eruption of inter-Palestinian fighting during the negotiating stage because Hamas rejects such negotiations, Hawatimah said: This is not true. This issue has never been raised. It falls within the context of media demagoguery. We agree with Hamas. Our agreement is evident in the statements issued by the DFLP, PFLP, and Hamas. We agreed on the need to continue the intifadah and allow Hamas to participate in the leadership to undermine the Gaza-Jericho accord. All of us rejected the autonomy plan and boycotted the meetings of the Executive Council, which is entrusted with implementing this plan. In light of the differences attributed to Hamas and after the statement of Shaykh Ahmad Yasin following his meeting with the Knesset member and the pressing calls of 'Arafat to bring about his release within the 12,000 Palestinian detainees. [sentence as published]

Therefore, we do not have any differences with Hamas and the issue now is to torpedo the Rabin-'Arafat agreement. The alternative to this agreement is to continue the intifadah and wrest the legitimate Palestinian rights.

Asked about the Palestinian infighting, Hawatimah said: Let us all be part of the forces that will continue the intifadah and be against any Palestinian infighting and any type of civil war. We clearly stress that the main contradiction has always been between all the Palestinian people and the Israeli occupation. We, therefore, must direct all guns and all stones at the occupation until it comes to an end.

The Palestinian problems will be resolved in a peaceful and democratic way. We will ask the people to hold a referendum. If the Palestinian people say that they support the Rabin-'Arafat agreement we will raise our hats. But if they say they are against the agreement, the United States and Russia must adopt the Palestinian people's views. The U.S. Administration, Israel, and 'Arafat are evading the people's referendum. While in Israel, Rabin pledges to hold a referendum before any withdrawal from any piece of land.

This is what I told the Russian deputy foreign minister, who was visiting the region a few days ago. He brought a message from Moscow to many Palestinian factions. When the Russian official said that the polls in Moscow show that the Gaza-Jericho agreement is supported by the majority in Gaza, I told him clearly: Since you and the U.S. Administration are the cosponsors of the Madrid conference, you may ask the people their opinion concerning the Gaza-Jericho agreement, the West Bank, the diaspora, and Jerusalem. If the people say they support the agreement, we will respect the results. And if they reject it you must respect the results. The Russian official laughed and said let us leave this issue for the future.

When the Russian official expressed apprehension about the eruption of inter-Palestinian fighting, I told him that this message should be addressed to 'Arafat because he has been exchanging messages with Rabin to stop the

intifadah on the pretext of renouncing terrorism, violence, and punishing the sons of the intifadah and its activists. 'Arafat agreed with Israel to establish a strong police force to undermine the intifadah. But if this force fails, the occupation forces will interfere.

As for the issue of infighting, I told him: Before you advise us, you may go to 'Arafat and then advise Moscow against any Russian infighting. This meeting with the Russian official was held four days before the tanks shelled the Russian Parliament.

Communist Party Leader on Opposition Conference

JN1811170893 Amman SHIHAN in Arabic 20-26 Nov 93 p 16

[Interview with 'Arabi 'Awwad, secretary general of the Palestinian Revolutionary Communist Party, by 'Imad al-Dik in Damascus—date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Dik] During the recent meetings of the 10 Palestinian factions, there was a call to form a committee to prepare a national conference to draft appropriate formulas for the continuation of national action. Do you think any Arab capital will host such a conference?

['Awwad] Despite the prevailing atmosphere in the region, which caused the vast majority of Arab capitals to yield to U.S. pressure, there are signs of rejection of this policy, especially the 'Arafat-Rabin agreement. Syria, for example, took part in the Madrid conference, but it is stepping up its opposition to the agreement. Added to this are the Libyan and Iraqi positions. The Palestinian national forces should take advantage of any Arab nationalist stand. Contacts with Syrian officials showed that Syria is willing to consider the question of the conference if the Palestinian factions that oppose the agreement agree to hold one. In any case, the 10 factions hold their meetings in Syria. Therefore, it is possible to hold the conference in Damascus.

Despite U.S. and Israeli pressure, the Syrian position is clear and affirms that Syria will leave it up to the Palestinian people and its factions. [passage omitted]

[Al-Dik] Are you planning to foil the Palestinian-Israeli agreement? Do you have a specific plan of action for that purpose?

['Awwad] After the agreement was signed, it became very clear that it is a national and pan-Arab disaster. It is now necessary to foil it. This is the duty of nationalist, pan-Arab, and Islamic forces. All forces should be mobilized toward that end. Naturally, the 10 factions have, since the announcement of the agreement, called for thwarting it. The mechanism proposed during our meetings was to expose this agreement and expose all the propaganda that depicts it as a step on the road of liberation. We will also work to mobilize and organize our people through seminars, lectures, and marches. We plan to expose and boycott the institutions that evolve from self-rule, including its administration, elections, health, educational, and agricultural institutions. This is because we should not cooperate with an agent authority. We will also expose the role of the Palestinian police force, which will act as a suppressive force, and work to find new formulas for Palestinian national action. We plan to set up a new authority for the Palestinian people, since 'Arafat's leadership collapsed when he recognized the Zionist enemy.

[Al-Dik] Many parties have said 'Arafat should be killed. What do you think of this? Do you expect him to be assassinated?

['Awwad] Obviously, 'Arafat has committed national treason that is worse than that of al-Sadat. Therefore, 'Arafat's fate is the same of all traitors. Those traitors are usually called to account by their people. Certainly, 'Arafat's fate will be similar to others in the past. We have many examples. When al-Sadat committed treason, he was killed by the heroes of his people. The same goes for Bashir al-Jumayyil, who was killed by the Lebanese. We also have Nuri al-Sa'id. It would not be strange for 'Arafat to be killed, despite all the security around him, because he betrayed the people and the cause. [passage omitted]

Israel Urged To Expedite Transfer of Power to PLO

TA1811192693 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 18 Nov 93 pp 3, 7

[Editorial: "Hastening Withdrawal Will Strengthen Peace"]

[Text] While the peace process is moving forward on the Palestinian track and is approaching zero hour for the Israeli Army's withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Jericho, it seems that the anger of Israeli settlers and other extremists is growing fast. They are trying by all means to torpedo the accord through escalating clashes with Palestinians. The pretext of settlers is that Palestinians have not stopped violence against Israelis, yet confrontation between them goes on despite the progress achieved in the talks between the two parties.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Israel's leaders are holding the PLO responsible for what is happening in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Not only is this a clear injustice, as the PLO has not yet assumed power in these Palestinian lands, Israel's demand is unheard of. The absent authority is being called to bear responsibility for what is happening in the occupied Palestinian territories. What is taking place in the West Bank and Gaza Strip should serve as an incentive for Israel to expedite the handing over of power to the Palestinian authority. Procrastination in implementing the accord will only lead to more tension and bloodshed. This is the only way to prevent any party from wrecking the peace agreement. The enemies of this agreement find fertile ground in the postponement of withdrawal. The settlers, too, find in postponement a last chance to strike at the agreement.

Clearly, the Israeli authorities bear the responsibility for reining in the settlers after they took the law into their own hands within earshot of the Israeli Army. The destruction wrought by the settlers in Hebron two days ago is a cause for sorrow and bitterness. True, a settler was stabbed in Hebron and a Palestinian was martyred—and we reject violence regardless of its source—but for the settlers to retaliate against the citizens of Hebron by firing on homes, terrorizing the population, and wrecking Arab cars and shops means that the Israeli authorities have lost control in maintaining security in Palestinian towns, villages, and camps and can no longer stop the practices of settlers, unless the authorities have a covert aim of upsetting the climate of the current talks in Cairo and Paris and portraying the Palestinians as being unable to stop violence.

What is happening today in the occupied Palestinian territories requires the Israeli authorities to end the practices of settlers. The deterioration of the situation neither serves the peace process nor leads to confidence-building between the two peoples or the building of a future enveloped by a climate of coexistence and security. When Israel demands that the PLO condemn and deplore the murder of any Israeli, is it not duty bound to condemn the murder of every Palestinian by Israelis? After the peace agreement was signed in Washington on 13 September, our people joyfully felt that their agony and suffering had come to an end. Today, they are discovering that violence has increased. Our people no longer feel secure when driving on the roads or in their work places and shops. Our people have accepted the peace challenge thrown before us. The results of the peace agreement so far do not prove that Israel is determined to prevent the elements who intend to torpedo the agreement from achieving their objective.

This situation delays the practical steps agreed on for the handing over of power to the Palestinians. Consequently, it will hinder implementation of the agreed on timetable. Dates must be respected, that is, withdrawal should begin next month, end four months later, and elections be held three months after that. Adherence to this agreement is one of the requirements of the next stage that relies on coexistence and peace among all the region's peoples, devoid of narrow-mindedness and blind fanaticism. We, "Palestinians and Israelis," will have no hope of emerging from the ongoing cycles of violence unless each party obtains its rights and security and unless mutual respect prevails between the two peoples.

'Abbas on Espionage Case, Gulf States Ties

NC1811185993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1450 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Excerpts] Tunis, 18 Nov (MENA)—Mahmud 'Abbas (Abu-Mazin), member of the PLO Executive Committee, affirmed that the negotiations that took place in Taba after the signing of the agreement were part of this agreement because they involved the search for solutions for an Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza and Jericho areas.

In an interview published by the Tunisian weekly magazine REALITIES today, Abu-Mazin said that the Gaza and Jericho issues involve more than just withdrawal. There are also other issues, such as security, the transfer of authorities, the return of Palestinian leaders to these areas, as well as problems pertaining to the Palestinian prisoners, deportees, and persons wanted by the Israeli authorities. [passage omitted]

Regarding the acts of violence that Jewish settlers are carrying out against Palestinians, even after the PLO condemned the murder of the Israeli settler, Abu-Mazin said that the PLO has abided by the clauses of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement in full since it was signed. He called on the Israeli Government to take a firm stand against the Jewish settlers who are seeking to frustrate the peace process.

Regarding the recent espionage case in the PLO, Abu-Mazin said that 'Adnan Yasin worked for the PLO office in Tunis for about 20 years. He was recruited by Israeli intelligence about two years ago in France and Germany. He added that this spy had been supplying information about addresses, people, houses, and those leaving and arriving in Tunis, but the only thing that has been proved is that he planted a listening device in my office.

Abu-Mazin said: Fortunately this device was planted in my office only a week to 10 days before Tunisian security discovered the affair and removed the device. He added that so far there has been no proof that Yasin had any accomplices and that what has been said in this regard is unfounded. Fortunately, he said, the entire Palestinian strategy and our secret talks with the Israelis in Oslo had been concluded.

Abu-Mazin affirmed that the case of Mahmud Sadiq, who is a member of Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's telecommunications team, is fabricated and unfounded. The man is completely innocent and has no connection with the 'Adnan Yasin case or the espionage case.

Regarding the future role of Fatah, Abu-Mazin said that Fatah has launched the Palestinian action in the past and will continue as a militant public movement, working not only inside the occupied territory but also outside them. He affirmed that Fatah will continue to perform its duty until all the problems end, including the problem of the refugees who were displaced in 1948.

Regarding Palestinian relations with the Gulf states, Abu-Mazin said that they are gradually returning to normal and that the heavy snow that accumulated after the Gulf war has begun to melt.

Al-Hasan Urges Questioning of Bal'awi in Spy Case

PM1811112693 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 16 Nov 93 p3

[Unattributed report: "Hani al-Hasan Requested Questioning of Bal'awi in Connection With Espionage Case"]

[Text] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned from informed Palestinian sources that Fatah Central Committee Member Hani al-Hasan did not attend the Revolutionary Council's meetings in Tunis, as a protest against the move to authorize Hakam Bal'awi to intervene in the investigation of the case of spy 'Adnan al-Yasin despite Hani al-Hasan's objection.

The sources said that al-Hasan not only objects to Bal'awi's interference but believes that Bal'awi himself should be questioned in connection with that and other previous cases.

Al-Hasan is currently undergoing routine medical tests at the military hospital in Riyadh.

U.S. Envoy Shows 'Understanding' in Talks With Kamal

LD1811192993 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 18 Nov 93

(Text] At noon today Brother Sa'id Kamal, the PLO representative in Egypt, met at the U.S. Embassy in Cairo with U.S. Ambassador to Egypt Mr. Pelletreau Jnr. During the meeting they talked about the PLO stance toward all the issues listed on the agenda of the negotiations, as well as the problems and complications these negotiations are experiencing. The U.S. ambassador showed understanding of the Palestinian stance and expressed his country's readiness to continue to advance the peace process and make efforts to reduce the obstacles so that the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement can be reached and ultimately a comprehensive and just peace can be attained in the region.

U.S. Policy Seen Less 'Balanced,' More Pro-Israel

PM1811141793 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 16 Nov 93 p 17

[Joseph Samahah article: "A Friend in the White House"]

[Text] Yitzhaq Rabin and Yasir 'Arafat agree at least on one thing: Each says that he has found a friend for their people in the White House. Without doubt the former is closer to the truth. This is why he deliberately refused to reveal his information about Fatah elements' responsibility for assassinating a settler except in Washington—which prompted a joint position from him and Bill Clinton demanding that the PLO condemn the killing, and indeed it did... while, in the meantime, we await clarification of its position on the criticism which it is being subjected over the way in which the development and reconstruction council has been formed.

Rabin returned from the United States with big support which—indeed—requires his praise for "the friend in the White House." He obtained promises of continued economic support and an increase in military aid, in addition to the payment of the expenses of redeployment in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. All this is in implementation of the old U.S. theory that strengthening the relationship with Israel encourages it to take steps toward "peace" and to take risks for the sake of it. This is what happened after Camp David. It was said then that protecting the separate peace during the intensification of the Cold War required paying a price. The people who defended this claim later discovered a decline in Israel's strategic role with regard to Washington—which gave the impression that the latter could now pursue a more balanced policy to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Bill Clinton's promises to Yitzhaq Rabin have dealt a severe blow to this claim. It seems at present that the more dust is thrown on the Cold War and the more Arab hostility toward Tel Aviv decreases, the more U.S. arms to Israel and interest in its qualitative supremacy increase.

Clinton's promises derive their importance this time from the fact that the region is moving toward "a comprehensive peace" and that it is now difficult to control the Arab move toward Israel. The clauses of this "peace" currently being negotiated include "controlling the arms race" and diverting part of the defense budgets to development. But Israel is exempt as long as Washington is committed to helping it to develop its military capabilities in an astonishing manner.

Thus Clinton's promises deviate from the general course of U.S. foreign policy, where austerity and aid control occupy a prominent place.

More importantly, Washington includes in the forefront of its priorities—or so it says—"combating the spread of mass-destruction weapons. And over recent weeks it has adopted a hostile approach in this connection which has led it to problems with Russia, India, China, and Pakistan, to the extent that it threatened to use violence against North Korea, let alone the scandal of searching the Chinese ship heading for Iran. U.S. clashes with world states—and in the Middle East—because of the insistence on this approach are numerous. But excluding Israel remains the rule in U.S. policy. This is in the knowledge that the Middle East is moving toward a "peace" which keeps the sword of threats away from the Hebrew state. This sword is blunt; in fact it does not exist!

The United States does not fear contradiction when it comes to the "strategic ally." And it is prepared to shoulder the necessary consequences of this step in terms

of the credibility of its foreign policy and its confrontations—in more than one place—to punish anyone who produces or trades in arms without permission from it or serving its interests.

The "peace" the United States wants in the region is a "peace" protected by Israel's qualitative supremacy. This is the friendship criterion on which Yitzhaq Rabin relies. Can Yasir 'Arafat or any other Arab leader offer another criterion?

'Arafat, Russian Envoy Discuss Peace Process

LD1711210493 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] Brother President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] yesterday evening received Mr. Viktor (Basavalyov) [title not given]. During the meeting they discussed a number of topics related to developments in the peace process in the region and reviewed international efforts to establish the foundations of peace by implementing the 13 December agreement on Israeli withdrawal.

The Russian envoy conveyed the greetings of the Russian leadership to brother President Abu-'Ammar, as well as their support for the Palestinian leadership headed by President Abu-'Ammar in achieving peace in the Middle East.

President Abu-'Ammar asked for his greetings to be conveyed to Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Foreign Minister Kozyrev.

'Arafat Receives Yugoslav Foreign Minister Jovanovic

LD1811175993 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1634 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Text] Tunis, 18 Nov (TANJUG)—In Tunis today Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, received Yugoslav Foreign Minister Vladislav Jovanovic who informed him in detail about the peace process in the former Bosnia-Herzegovina. The Yugoslav minister stressed the efforts of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia directed toward restoring peace in the former Bosnia-Herzegovina and spoke favorably of President 'Arafat's goodwill in his desire to contribute to the solving of the conflict.

During the talks, also attended by Faruq Qaddumi, foreign minister of the state of Palestine, other issues of mutual interest, especially the development of bilateral economic and other relations, were discussed.

RSA's Botha Invites 'Arafat To Visit South Africa

MB1911095293 Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English 17 Nov 93 p 4

[Unattributed article]

[Excerpts] Tunis.—PLO chief foreign affairs spokesman Mr Faruq Qaddumi conferred yesterday with South Africa's Foreign Minister Pik Botha on Middle East issues and bilateral relations, PLO official said.

The officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Mr Botha told Mr Qaddumi that South Africa will allow the Palestine Liberation Organisation to open an office in Pretoria, and promised to provide help for the Palestinians in the occupied territories.

It is the first time a South African Minister met an official from the PLO, which maintains historic relations with the African National Congress. [passage omitted]

The officials said Mr Botha extended an invitation to PLO chairman Mr Yasser Arafat to visit South Africa. No date was set.

Algeria

Hamas Leader Nahnah Interviewed on Dialogue

LD1811215793 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1103 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Studio interview with Cheikh Mahfoud Nahnah, leader of the Islamic Society Movement, Hamas, on the "Transformations" news program, by unidentified correspondents—live]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] [Passage omitted] The first question: You first participated in the dialogue with the Higher State Council [HCE] and then with the National Dialogue Commission. How do you evaluate this participation and what proposals has Hamas put forward in this dialogue?

[Nahnah] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. At the beginning, I would very much like to thank this media and political revival which have checked the [violent] energy of the Algerian individual who would have [otherwise] dropped into a bottomless pit. The dialogue issue, which you brought up and which has become the issue on which those sincere to this dear country count on, and to which the state's organs—starting with the HCE that came into existence after the previous presidency ended—have responded ... [pauses] ... We found ourselves spontaneously responding to our movement's ideology and principles to find solutions that will make us reach the shore safely with the least burdens and far from wasting human lives or damaging achievements and gains. It appears that this dialogue took three dimensions. The first was with the HCE and its structures; the second was with the head of the HCE; the third was with the committee named the National Dialogue Commission. Perhaps that enters into a civilized spiral with many outlets to reach the truth and to discover truth amid this thrust of competition—which is sometimes good—and conflicts which are not good at other times. We are working with efforts available to us to express our opinions and proposals. By this we are aiming at the higher interest of this dear country.

[Correspondent] Mr. Nahnah, regarding the formation of the National Dialogue Commission [NDC], you said this dialogue began in stages. Do you think that the formation of the NDC, consisting of many personalities including military ones, is a positive signal for Hamas to push the dialogue forward, an indication of the authority's intention to go far to organize the national dialogue, or do you think that the first dialogue, which began with the HCE, did not achieve, as per comments here, positive results?

[Nahnah] Algeria is undergoing a test and is in a state of division. It is trying on the high, medium and lower levels. Perhaps there are benefits from the sea and benefits from the river [benefits from all approaches]. The NDC, which was reinforced by influential military personalities, can convey meanings through bilateral participation to those concerned so as to achieve a democratic outcome for the dialogue in the country's interest by the end of 1993. That would be done very far from tutelage.

[Correspondent] Tutelage from whom?

[Nahnah] Tutelage from any party because bilateral dialogue gives an indication of positiveness and also seriousness, particularly since the eight NDC personalities were varied. We believe that this seriousness is what will rein in all dialogue partners, whether they are in the country or abroad.

[Correspondent] What is Hamas' interpretation of the issues announced by the NDC in recent statements on opening dialogue with all the forces in the country, of course with the exception of the forces which...

[Nahnah, interreputing] This is what I believe is one of the most positive aspects in that this commission was able to break the barrier around the HCE, which had been refusing to hold a dialogue with any other party. This commission, since it is independent, has the authority to contact any party, particularly the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS]. Some of its members are fidgety and others are hesitant about holding or not holding a dialogue, or excluding themselves, which has made other parties carry the accreditation paper, saying that those [FIS members] who have excluded themselves and those [FIS members] calling for national reconciliation will each express their views at the end of the round, and this will add further fuel the fire.

[Correspondent] Mr. Nahnah, there is only a short time left before the holding of the national seminar. No progress was made and the solution remains dependent on the agreement between the opposition and the government. The ambiguity is: Will the solution always remain dependent on holding a dialogue with the FIS?

[Nahnah] In our view, the FIS, which was dissolved by a decision of the Justice Ministry, has not been dissolved as individuals because they constitute a segment of Algerian society. We do believe that within this ever-growing segment, nearly three million voters, there are a great number who abhor violence and reject blood and refuse to climb over the skulls of the innocent and victims of Algerian society. Therefore, we did encourage, and still do, utterances from the mouths of the honest, the wise, the elected, and the founders who have not been touched by imprisonment, terrorism, or who have taken to the hills.

[Correspondent] Well, there is a problem, as you have said on various occasions and in several statements, of the wise men of the FIS and the need for their participation, or of the dissolved FIS, in the dialogue. However, today the problem is who, according to Hamas and Mr. Nahnah, represents the dissolved FIS?

[Nahnah] They know themselves better. We are not their custodians nor is any other Algerian party. No one is a custodian of the FIS but they themselves know better

how they could attain dialogue and the approaches that lead to that dialogue so as to spare Algerian blood. We do not like to see Algerian blood spilled by Algerian hands.

[Correspondent] However, you have announced several times that Hamas was prepared to mediate between the government and the dissolved FIS. Was this true? And do you think that this is possible?

[Nahnah] What we have arrived at is that the National Dialogue Commission has announced its preparedness to hold dialogue with whoever wants to. Therefore, the only thing for the other party to do is to have the courage and seriousness to search for these approaches. We have nothing against being one of those approaches even if it means endangering our life. [passage omitted]

Differences in views exist between all these trends and parties and at various levels. Everyone has his own view. However, the one view that all parties should settle on is the view upon which the Algerians meet and not fight.

[Correspondent] Mr. Nahnah, in your last dialogue with the commission, did you touch upon FIS participation in the dialogue?

[Nahnah] In the next meeting it will be possible to talk about this, but there is an important question. It concerns the factors that will help secure the success of the coming national conference. We have made in this context a range of demands, and we believe that some of them will be met soon, God willing, particularly those pertaining to those who suffer in jails, who are wrongly convicted in these jails, who have not committed any sin and who have been sentenced or are awaiting sentencing. Those are supposed to be released directly so that there may be factors helping the holding of a clean, strong, and serious dialogue.

[Correspondent] Is it possible to know these factors?

[Nahnah] Our dear listeners and yourselves are aware that Algeria is beset by many concerns: political, security, economic, and social concerns. Have we not seen the recent economic problem where the price of potatoes reached 35 dinars? This is a big problem and the responsibility for this falls on the authorities, who have failed to control monetary supplies, production and a just distribution of wealth. [passage omitted].

We must search for ways to lift this economic and social suffering and the nightmare of fear and panic which we are going through. The Algerian people are now living in a state of panic and fear in certain regions. The law on fighting terrorism is supposed to take its normal course in a way where human rights are not transgressed, and justice must be independent for all. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Okay, the national reconciliation axis, Mr. Mahfoud Nahnah. Is it contrary to the current developments, is the solution in, for example, the latest statement by the defense minister on the fixed grace period until the end of December? There is also an invitation to politicians to bear their responsibilities. Do you think the politicians, including the parties active in the Islamic field, bear a certain responsibility toward what is happening now, particularly on the security front?

[Nahnah] The Algerian homeland does not exclude any individual, section, body or institution. Accordingly, the latest statement by the defense minister came with caution veiled with warning to the political, party, and organizational institutions in this country on the basis that every party leader and political platform should take measures that will lead us to a view that we can call the minimum level of concordance and agreement. Mr. Lamine Zeroual's statement dotted the i's and crossed the t's. Otherwise, God forbid, if the political parties are unable to meet together on the minimum level, then we will enter into what the Algerian people do not like.

[Correspondent] Concerning your movement Mr. Nahnah, is the issue reaching a minimum level [of accord] between parties, particularly parties that agree on the national conciliation matter? Is there concordance or unanimity between these parties, including the participation of the dissolved FIS—is there concordance, harmony, and a unified view concerning this issue?

[Nahnah] It is no secret that for the Algerian parties about two or three days ago, Mr. Said Sa'adi [Rally for Culture and Democracy leader] gave out signals which we consider very serious. He said that he was ready for dialogue with all parties or something to that effect. We consider that a good signal. So if that person is sincere, despite his previous statements and hardline positions and so on, whether that statement came from personal conviction or from other parties or from pressure—the important thing is that in the end this statement will pour into a stream that will help reach the minimum level [of agreement]. If Mr. Saadi reached this stage, then tomorrow other parties will reach that. This is possible within 40 days, days filled with positive hours if there is the intention to achieve the higher interest of this country—halting bloodshed, preserving national unity, avoiding entering into the Somali, Lebanese, or Afghan situations which some parties want to drag us into.

[Correspondent] Who are these parties?

[Nahnah] They are parties. Everyone who refuses to enter into dialogue, I see him as a party to this. Even by keeping silent, I consider him to be a party encouraging all that takes Algeria into—God forbid, God forbid, may God keep it away from Algeria—a civil war or come under the control of a foreign power. We have heard in the past days statements from some foreign countries across the sea which should infuriate Algerians and evoke national jealousy within them. It does not befit Algerians to see that the authorities and partisan organizations have remained silent to these threats. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Do you think the circumstances are suitable for holding the national dialogue conference?

[Nahnah] I say suitable, very suitable unless one party wants to abort this civilized project, which, in our opinion, has no match in the Arab and Islamic world to which we belong. [passage omitted]

We say that this method should be established in our political life because communication has disappeared from the Algerian spirit as did the traditions of setting up a civilized dialogue between different and contradictory views.

[Correspondent] You are optimistic that the national conference will reach a national consensus.

[Nahnah] Very. We are optimistic not only with regard to the national dialogue commission, but we are also optimistic that we will come out with a solution that will get rid of the problem of legitimacy from which the regime and the parties suffer. If we reach that, our meetings with the HCE, the HCE chairman, the national conference, or the bilateral meetings between parties will all be considered as reinvigorating preparatory groundwork for carrying out a civilized surgical operation through which we will reach the shores of safety at the lowest cost. [passage omitted]

We are now going along a democratic path which first of all gives to everybody the right he is entitled to; second, it allows opposing views to reach the grassroots and thus citizens get acquainted with them; third it allows those who have expertise, wisdom and views to give mature viewpoints for the solution to the Algerian problem; and fourth it respects the voice of the majority, as we believe that a democracy which does not listen to the views of the majority, which is not far removed from coercion, tyranny, oppression, threats, forgery, distortion and misinformation, then in that case we would say that democracy cannot proceed normally toward...

[Correspondent, interrupting] Does this mean that what has been happening for two years has been a blow to the voice of the majority?

[Nahnah] You know very well that the Algerian arena was bubbling over, where matters went beyond limits. Many individuals and bodies played with this issue. We do not want to trifle with the Islamic dimension, the patriotic or the democratic one. These misuses of patriotic action, of Islamic action and democratic action have taken place hundreds of times and we are suffering from their consequences up to now. We are thus a nation which wants to get out from the cocoon of underdevelopment to the platform of development and modernization at the lowest of costs.

[Correspondent] We return to a point you have raised a great deal, it is that of legitimacy, legitimacy in Algeria, and also linking it to the developments that took place in Algeria. Do you believe that all that happened for two years has led to a result: the emergence of a number of new facts and signals that in turn led to raising the issues of legitimacy, constitutional legitimacy and elections, in a different manner? Do you belive that conditions are now suitable for talking once again about the issue of legitimacy?

[Nahnah] In reality the issue of legitimacy is besetting many regimes. The issue of legitimacy is put in question in Arab and Islamic regimes. The fact is that at one moment legitimacy was based on oneness [one party regimes], and our view is that for the issue of legitimacy to be settled definitively, we should not insult ourselves, and—I apologize to the listening citizens—we should not spit on our history, our present, or our future. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] The new world order and the strategic position of Algeria, whether at the regional or Mediterranean or international levels: Do you believe that the current political address which Hamas adopts—for example, the question of the building of the Islamic project in Algeria—contradicts all the international transformations?

[Nahnah] By God the strange thing about this is that the word Islam has become an ugly and frightening word, even as far as the sons of Algeria, the Muslims, males and females, dead or alive! secular and non-secular. Very strange! The Islamic project which we are talking about is understood by some individuals as the chopping of the hand, destruction and spilling of blood, and the project of returning to the pre-Islamic eras and the stone age. This is wrong. [passage omitted].

The Islamic project has become the center of attraction to the westerners. Five days ago I witnessed the British Crown Prince Prince Charles speak about Islamic civilization. In fact he said that a great part of western civilization comes from Islamic civilization. The British national does not fear this. The current American school has opened its channels even with the opposition to the extent that it has accepted as a resident the so-called terrorist Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman. How come that Algerian Muslims fear their Islam? [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Therefore Hamas is for the republican project and at the same time with the Islamic project; that is with the two.

[Nahnah] Please allow me: The fact is that the Islamic project does not contradict at all the republican project. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Good, on violence and terrorism, as you mentioned, and what is taking place at the security level, a political view or a political justification?

[Nahnah] As for violence and terrorism, in order to be in the picture and no offense to listeners I hope, violence comes from various parties, the authorities have media violence and have in their hands the instruments for diffusing news and distributing political mines now and then. This is considered to be among the highest forms of violence which leads to ...

[Correspondent, interrupting] No, we are talking about armed violence, or political violence.

[Nahnah] It is not a sine qua non condition, because media violence affects all the people, whereas the violence of killing a person affects that person himself. This does not mean that we justify the assassination of a person because the killing of a Muslim is prohibited by law, conventions, traditions, religion and civilization in the present and in the future. We even reject the assassination of non-Muslims. We reject the assassination of non-Muslims or the kidnapping of non-Algerians, i.e. of foreign citizens, residents or nationals who are present in our country and who are carrying out their role toward our country or theirs. This is a principle.

The important issue is that assassination and political violence, which affects all the people, is what is rejected categorically, and the assassination of a Muslim somewhere or the kidnapping of a Muslim somewhere and the attempt to make him an example or deform his body is, as I said a few moments ago, far removed from the Islamic teachings, patriotic values and international conventions. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Mr. Nahnah, some say that to eliminate or end violence we must go to the polls. What do you think?

[Nahnah] I have talked about the second value which is tolerance and the third value is dialogue. There must be dialogue. To achieve results through dialogue, with those involved in it, we must speed up the holding of elections.

[Correspondent] Do you think that the conditions are suitable to hold the elections?

[Nahnah] Frankly, I regard everybody's cooperation and everybody's loyalty as a sign of their readiness to stem violence at its root. That is one thing. The second thing is: Do we think that the countries which have no elections are free from violence? The second question: Do we think that the countries where elections have been held are free from violence? Violence exists in both cases, whether there are elections or not. However, we are of the opinion that holding elections, after providing the conditions and climate for them, in concert with those involved in the dialogue, could reduce this pressure. This does not mean that the issue of violence will be resolved for good because regrettably the Algerians have now become accustomed to the following: They have no confidence in anything representing the authorities; they have no confidence in any national institution. This is a serious disease which we caught through our attitude to the state. As a result, you find that people are not working. If they are entrusted with a responsibility, they do not work; if they are in management in a public administration, they do not work. I have also learned that some ministers, who felt that the mandate of the HCE will end in 1993, are playing it safe and do not want, before leaving their posts, to take decisions that will solve the problems of the citizens. This is wrong. In our religion, our Prophet, may God's prayers and peace be upon him, tells us that if your time has come and you are able to plant the palm seedling in your hand, then do plant it.

The HCE, whether it goes or not—in our opinion its departure would be more suitable—should plant this palm seedling. As the Persian proverb says: They planted, so we ate; we plant and they will eat. If the HCE is replaced, without preparation, by another body or another person who will exercise political power as a head of state, this will be a grave mistake. If the HCE remains in power, this will be in contradiction to its statements and the statements made repeatedly by its members.

[Correspondent] How does Hamas envisage the participation of politicians or political parties, including Hamas, in the running of the transitional period, knowing that the latter will be based on the existence of institutions controlled by those who hold the real power?

[Nahnah] The most important aspect in the transitional period, should the partners in the dialogue agree to it, is the existence of a supervisory body.

[Correspondent] Is it not the same proposal made by the FFS [Socialist Forces Front]?

[Nahnah] Well, if we reach an agreement on this, why not? We would be pleased to reach an agreement on this.

[Correspondent] The Hamas movement is optimistic about the success of the dialogue, but should the dialogue fail...

[Nahnah, interrupting] We are optimistic about the dialogue, the national conference and Algeria.

[Correspondent] But with regard to the dialogue and the national conference, what are the obstacles that you expect?

[Nahnah] Do you honestly think that Algeria has lost all its real men? Algeria still has its men and people who are loyal to it. Those who played a part in liberating Algeria and took it to the shores of independence in 1962 are still alive, are cohesive, united, and strong, and they can give the green light to any direction that would take the country to safe shores.

[Correspondent] Is the Hamas movement certain that in 40 days it will be possible to reach a national consensus?

[Nahnah] Please allow me to say, and I apologize to the listeners, that Algeria is these days pregnant and the delivery is due in 40 days [laughter] before it reaches safe shores.

[Correspondent] There is another subject, since we have very little time left. How does the Hamas movement see the role of the military institution in Algeria today? What role can the army play in a transitional period since the authorities have stated that there will not be any elections in the near future?

[Nahnah] The military institution is the first institution in the country which had the merit to liberate the country and had the merit to build the country, despite the shortcomings, the wounds, the problems and the negative aspects which came as a result of the practices of the politicians and their disregard for ordinary citizens. As I have said, the military institution was, and still is, cohesive and united, and I do not think that it will oppose a consensus or a semi-consensus reached by the politicians because it is the guarantor of unity and the guarantor of our territorial integrity and the unity of the heritage and its diversity. By preserving the unity and diversity of our heritage and by abiding by the results achieved by the partners in the dialogue, the military institution will, as it did in the past, guarantee everything that the Algerian people will need in the coming days. [Correspondent] Well, concerning making preparations for returning to normal life in Algeria and your reference to the military establishment. Does the Hamas movement think that in Algeria's political map there have been some changes in it in the last two years?

[Nahnah] Some political circles want to implicate the military establishment in a military coup or a confrontation with the people or taking the military establishment away from the role of the army, namely protecting national unity. But with God's grace the military establishment, at least in our opinion, is aware especially with regard to the intellectual and ideological minorities, which are always active because they lost popularity in the past and will lose this popularity in the future unless they can [word indistinct] with the truth about Algerian people.

[Correspondent] Do we understand that Hamas rejects what it has called intellectual and ideological minorities, bearing in mind that it has talked about the issue of democracy and [words indistinct]?

[Nahnah] I demanded at a meeting with the HCE and HCE chairman, and the dialogue commission, that Algeria can never dispense with any Algerian citizen who has the ability to give, and make sacrifices away from conspiring. Intellectual minorities being intellectual minorities have bright intellects and our people can benefit from them. In this case, we cannot do without them. Indeed, we are here together under the sky, the soil, the water, and the warmth of Algeria. How can we do without these energies which have been educated, become cultured and acquired a national dimension? However by not representing the broadest national segment this has put them in the place of intellectual minorities.

[Correspondent] Is this opinion based on the results of the recent elections or on what basis?

[Nahnah] Indeed; more than this, I would say that since 1962 there have been intellectual minorities; they were able or they managed to have a part to play in the machinery of power, to maneuver and distract the Algerian people from its reality. This is why the Americans recently felt that the Islamic voice has become a powerful voice and the British also felt that the Islamic voice has become a powerful voice. It suffices to say that the British permitted the existence of an Islamic party and on account of that they are a minority, they permitted them.

To get out of the maze of violence and similar things, the thing is to entrench the relationship and to link the relationship between the ruler and the ruled and between parties and authority; also to discard hatreds in implementation of the holy verse: Those who restrain anger and pardon all men, for God loves those who do good. In this manner, we will be able to overcome this fabricated obstacle, in our opinion.

[Correspondent] Fabricated by whom?

[Nahnah] Its fabrication was done by way of political, legal, and constitutional decisions which wanted to deprive the popular majority from the right to express its will, wishes, and future aspirations. But the strong establishments in the country and I mean the military establishment became aware of this misrepresentation which these sides were playing and therefore it opened its heart for a dialogue with the Islamists and non- Islamists. Here I have a remark. Some people believe that the word Islamists rule out Islam from the others. No. When we say the Islamists we mean those who proceed from an Islamist point and not from other point, like those in Catholicism and Christianity. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] One last question. It is personal somehow. It is said and reiterated in the press that Cheikh Nahnah is more dangerous than the FIS. What is your view on this?

[Nahnah] These words are those of some of the media and some politicians. I do not imagine that the sons of Islam and the genuine sons of the Algerian Republic express this view. They say this is a man calling for tolerance, dialogue, fraternity, and faithfulness to God, and the martyrs, their wives and sons.

Socialist Forces Front To Remain in Dialogue

LD1811232893 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Text] Today, one day after it announced that it was temporarily withdrawing from the dialogue on the transitional period, the Socialist Forces Front held a seminar on civil peace at the Ibn Khaldoun Hall in Algiers. Our colleague Rachid Benhmimid, who attended this seminar, asked Mr. Khelili Said, national secretary in charge of organization, on how ready the Socialist Forces Front was to resume the dialogue.

[Khelili Said] We are still taking part in the dialogue, but we are sticking to our principles and our conditions. We have said that there is no interruption. We told the other sides that there might have been a misunderstanding; and perhaps there will be a development from one side

or another. These are the dynamics, and we cannot make a final decision today. The practice of seeing everything in black and white [must be abandoned]. There might be a change in attitudes and in the political field. The [political] climate might improve and the sides could get closer to one another.

Ali Kafi Stresses Need for Solution to Foreign Debt Problem

LD1811143293 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Text] Foreign debt eats up 80 percent of our export revenues, which has hampered us in resuming economic development and prevented the launch of the economic and social development project in our country. This statement was made by the chairman of the Higher State Council [Ali Kafi] before the Council of Ministers yesterday.

He stressed the need to find a real solution to the foreign debt problem. This solution is now necessary for economic revival, but this alone is not enough, as it must be accompanied by bold measures to enable economic restructuring and to correct strategies in the various sectors of economic activity.

Ali Kafi added that Algeria possessed a valuable industrial base, structures of a modern country, and young and qualified human resources. These are all winning cards that must be exploited in the framework of a recovering national economic structure.

The HSC chairman pledged the state's support for the emergence of active entrepreneurs and pointed out that the distinction between the public and private economic sectors is based only on dynamism, expertise, and competition.

Egypt

Security Services Arrest 7 'Terrorists' in al-Fayyum

NC1911153893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1505 GMT 19 Nov 93

[Text] Al-Fayyum, 19 Nov (MENA)—The security services in al-Fayyum today arrested seven terrorists. One of them, Muhammad Fathi Mahmud Khalid, 21, was in possession of 10 firebombs hidden in a sack. The investigation revealed that this terrorist was preparing to carry out new operations. The al-Fayyum prosecution ordered that this terrorist be held in custody for 15 days and is conducting an investigation of the others.

'Terrorist Organization' Uncovered in Imbabah District

NC1811140293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1248 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 18 Nov (MENA)—Security forces have uncovered a terrorist organization comprising 21 members, seven of whom are fugitives. The organization was planning to revive and reorganize the extremist groups in al-Jizah Governorate's Imbabah District [in greater Cairo].

Investigations carried out by State Security detectives show that organization members who are serving prison terms instructed the remaining members who were released from detention to carry out terrorist acts including eliminating several dissident members. The organization's aim was to reestablish its influence in Imbabah. The extremist groups' hold on the area was terminated by a security campaign in late 1992 and early 1993, during which the security forces dismantled the extremist groups' organizational structure, seized their leaders and cadres, and uncovered their headquarters and hideouts.

Information Minister Leaves for Libya

NC1911114393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1110 GMT 19 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 19 Nov (MENA)—Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif left Cairo today for Tripoli. He is expected to meet with brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution.

Libyan Official Leaves Cairo for Tunisia

NC1511181293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1750 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, 15 Nov (MENA)—Jum'ah al-Fazzani, secretary of the Libyan General People's Committee for unity, left Cairo for Tunisia this evening at the conclusion of a two-day visit to Egypt. [passage omitted]

Libyan Official Departs After Signing Water Agreement

NC1811210993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1730 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Text] Al-Sallum, 18 Nov (MENA)—'Umar Rashwan, secretary of the Libyan people's committee for development, left the al-Sallum border post on his way home after signing an agreement on implementing the Siwah water project.

Rashwan stated before his departure that he will attend a meeting on the coordination of relations with Egypt, which will be held in Cairo at the beginning of December under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi and Abu-Zayd Durdah, secretary of the Libyan general people's committee, to discuss the implementation of the decisions and instructions of President Husni Mubarak and Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and review the progress made in the implementation of the joint projects between the two countries, including the railway line between al-Sallum, in Egypt, and Tobruq, in Libya.

Libya Urged To Enact Internal 'Changes'

NC1611091693 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 13 Nov 93 p 14

["Dividing Lines" column by AL-JUMHURIYAH Board Chairman Samir Rajab]

[Text] There is no question that the recent UN Security Council resolution on freezing Libyan foreign assets will greatly harm the Libyan people. The resolution involves a ban on the supply of equipment to the Libyan oil industry, a measure that could impede economic activity and undercut development efforts in the country.

Clearly, the international community is again dealing in double standards. The world is full of urgent issues affecting the lives, security, stability, and future of millions, but the UN Security Council and other world organizations do nothing about them. The Lockerbie incident, in contrast, has mushroomed into an "international crisis" despite the passage of time and Libyan insistence that it had no part in it and its promise to stay away from anything remotely resembling terror.

But this is all in the past. Right now, an immediate solution must be found to the growing suffering of the Libyan people, whose fortunes have taken quite a turn. Once a prosperous nation, they are now faced with destitution.

To tell the truth, finding a solution is not easy, at least not from the viewpoint of the Libyan leadership. Its "declared" policy and its steady volley of revolutionary slogans leave no room for extraditing the suspects.

I believe that if Libya made changes on its domestic scene involving policy, style, and "some" faces it could help the international community to create an atmosphere in which the "sanctions" could be eased on the grounds that the picture has changed. The two suspects have been described as members of the family of 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud, the man known as Libya's number two.

Countries "friendly" with Libya did much to postpone the imposition of sanctions on it in the hope that a positive development might occur to render the sanctions superfluous. But, two days ago, the resolution was passed. Eleven countries voted for it and none against, an awesome ratio by all accounts.

The key to a solution is in Libya's hands, no one else's. Libya alone can decide how to deal with the new situation. As it braces itself for the task, it should consider the full impact of the UN resolution and, at least for a while, abandon its romanticism and slogans.

Official Expresses Regret Over Libya Sanctions

NC1811112793 Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I in Arabic 13 Nov 93 p 2

[Text] Dr. Mufid Shihab, chairman of the Consultative Council's committee on Arab, foreign, and national security affairs, has expressed his regret at the Security Council resolution stepping up sanctions against Libya over the Lockerbie crisis. In an exclusive statement to AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I, he said the Security Council should have given more time for direct and indirect consultations between Libya and Western countries. He noted that the latest Security Council resolution will not ease or resolve the crisis. He said the resolution demonstrates that the Western camp won over the support of the big powers at the Security Council, notably Russia. Tougher sanctions against Libya, sanctions that will further harm Libya's economic and trade interests, seek to pressure it to hand over the defendants.

Dr. Shihab said the resolution shows the Western camp's resolve to adhere to its previous position, although Libya said it does not agree to hand over the defendants to the United States, but to a neutral country such as Switzerland. He said the issuing of the latest Security Council resolution, which escalates the crisis, should not serve as a motive to halt the talks between Libya and the West. The countries that maintain good ties with both sides, primarily Egypt, which maintains special ties with Libya, should mediate and continue the talks to resolve the crisis. He appealed to all official and unofficial organizations, primarily the United Nations and friendly countries, to continue their efforts quickly, before the early December deadline set by the Security Council for imposing the sanctions, which will harm Libya and the friendly Libyan people.

Israeli Minister Holds Cooperation Talks, Departs

Talks on Energy Cooperation Held

NC1811174593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1515 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 18 Nov (MENA)—Official Egyptian-Israeli talks on cooperation in electricity began here today.

The Egyptian side was led by Electricity Minister Engineer Mahir Abazah, and the Israeli side was led by Energy Minister Moshe Shahal, who is currently visiting Cairo.

After the meeting, Minister Abazah said they discussed ideas and possible bilateral cooperation in the field of renewable energy, particularly the exploitation of solar energy to generate electricity.

Cooperation in Gas, Oil Discussed

NC1811211093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1750 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 18 Nov (MENA)—A round of talks between Egypt and Israel was held here today under the leadership of Petroleum Minister Dr. Hamdi al-Banbi and visiting Israeli Energy Minister Moshe Shahal.

The Israeli side presented a brief report on oil activities in Israel and expressed the desire to cooperate with

Egypt in the areas of natural gas and the search for oil in Israel, in view of Egypt's long experience and advances in that field.

Aspects of cooperation in the area of petrochemicals and the possibility of an exchange between the two countries in this matter were discussed during the meeting.

Dr. al-Banbi explained that Egypt's current production of natural gas does not cover its local needs, but the new discoveries of gas will enable us to export it in the future. He stressed the importance of economic feasibility studies before starting any project.

An agreement was reached on exchanging views and discussions during the meetings that will be held by experts from both sides.

Israeli Minister Departs

NC1811213693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2045 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 18 Nov (MENA)—Israeli Energy Minister Moshe Shahal left Cairo for Israel this evening after a two-day visit to Egypt. During his visit, Shahal met with President Husni Mubarak. Shahal also met with Electricity Minister Mahir Abazah, Oil Minister Dr. Hamdi al-Banbi, and Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi.

Israeli Arms Deal Casts 'Negative Shadow'

NC1911150893 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 19 Nov 93

[Commentary by Zayn al-Ja'fari: "The Israeli Military Superiority Theory and Its Effects on the Peace Cause"]

[Text] All Middle Eastern parties are moving toward peace to end 50 years of conflict. Various regional and international efforts are afoot to boost this peace quest and eliminate the occasional obstacles in its way. Some international powers, notably the United States and France, are making efforts and carrying out contacts to establish peace throughout the region. The French foreign minister is visiting Syria to promote an earnest Syrian-Israeli dialogue. The U.S. secretary of state plans a regional tour early next month. The Palestinian-Israeli negotiations are taking the first steps toward implementing the Gaza-Jericho agreement. The multilateral talks have made some progress, creating a measure of optimism regarding the concerned parties' ability to renounce their mutual hostility and establish regional peace. All events indicate that the land-for-peace principle is the only certain way of attaining a lasting comprehensive peace based on good neighborliness and respect for the secure borders of each of the region's countries.

While all this is happening, reports from Tel Aviv indicate that Israel will obtain a deal for very modern U.S. weapons to add to its arsenal. This shows that Israel continues to cling to the military superiority theory, although we are certain that Israel's political and military leaders realize that recent regional developments, notably the [1973] October war and the Gulf war, have discredited Israel's security theory, which is ultimately based on military superiority. We do not want to go into detail because everyone, particularly the Israelis, knows very well that, despite their precautions during the Gulf war, Israeli territory was the target of Iraqi missile strikes that caused considerable losses. Israel exploited those attacks to acquire sophisticated U.S. Patriot missiles to boost its security.

We do not dispute the right of any country in the region to boost its security. Nevertheless, it is astonishing that Israel should seek to add more sophisticated U.S. weapons to its arsenal at this particular time, something that is bound to cast a negative shadow on the peace process and the ongoing negotiations with the Palestinians. This Israeli policy will also disturb the regional balance of power, which is necessary to bolster the peace prospects, and might renew the arms race, with each party seeking to attain superiority over the other. This will divert resources from economic development plans seeking to raise the region's standard of living to the purchase of the means of war and destruction. This flatly contradicts President Husni Mubarak's initiative to turn the Middle East into a zone free of weapons of mass destruction, an initiative supported by numerous international organizations.

Still, this Israeli stance must not soften the Arab resolve to continue laying a siege of peace on Israel, just as we have done in the past. In this way we can daily win greater international backing and sympathy, an important boost to the peace process.

Israeli Pressures on 'Arafat Said To Weaken Him

NC1711213793 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 15 Nov 93 p 2

[From the "Comment" column by Husayn 'Abd-al-Wahid: "'Arafat...and Israel"]

[Text] It is no secret that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat is coming under severe pressures from some Palestinian forces that are opposed to the Gaza-Jericho agreement.

It is no secret that 'Arafat accepted the challenge and the risk when he signed this agreement despite the hysterical cries from some organizations that reached the point of threatening physical liquidation and assassination.

'Arafat has remained committed to his choice, relying in this on the support of the overwhelming majority of the Palestinian people. His reasoning is that time will convince the opponents of the agreement of the advantages of dialogue and of the attempt to coexist with the Israelis and to meet them halfway.

In view of this stand, all the forces that support peace were expected to support the Palestinian president's

position and back him in reining in the opponents and attracting them to the peace efforts.

Even though Israel's leaders are aware of this axiom, they insist on ignoring it in a way that negatively affects 'Arafat's credibility before his people and gives his opponents the opportunity to intensify their pressure on him.

The latest example of this was Israel's insistence that 'Arafat himself should condemn publicly the killing of an Israeli settler last month at the hands of five Palestinians who are said to be members of Fatah.

'Arafat issued the required statement of condemnation and also issued his orders to stop acts of violence against the Israeli settlers and forces in the occupied territories.

This was done even though Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has not issued any statement condemning the settlers' attacks on the Arabs or the crimes committed by the Israeli forces with their bullets daily against the Palestinians.

There is no explanation for this Israeli insistence on 'Arafat's apology other than that the Israelis are seeking to squeeze him and wrest as many gains as they can—no matter how small—without appreciating his position, even if this requires that he is placed between the vice of the Israeli intransigence on one side and the intransigence of some Palestinians on the other.

Weakening the position of Yasir 'Arafat or the PLO at this particular stage cannot serve the peace cause, even if the purpose of the Israeli pressure on him is the condemnation of violence or terrorism.

A just peace is more noble than any small gain. It alone can put an end to violence and eliminate terrorism.

PLO 'Power Struggle' Viewed

NC1711214593 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 15 Nov 93 p 14

[From the "Dividing Lines" column by Samir Rajab]

[Text] I believe that the PLO Executive Committee meetings will see more differences and rifts, something that poses a threat to the interests of the Palestinians, those residing inside the occupied territories more than anyone else!

Over the years, the Palestinian people have gotten used to living a life of fighting, conflict, and disputes among themselves. Unfortunately, each faction and group works for other parties, and the question of being "revolutionary" is the last thing they worry about. The same goes for the slogans, shouts, and the media statements, which are all for "local and transitory consumption." The various parties that control these factions have found what they are looking for in the Gaza-Jericho agreement, and they manipulated it in the worst possible way. The result is the blood that we see running like rivers every day!

Yasir 'Arafat now is living the worst time of his life. While repeatedly emphasizing that his organization has given up terrorism, all types of terrorism are being used against him by his colleagues and comrades. While trying to flirt with Israel whenever he finds a chance, they bring him someone who publicly and frankly admits that he had been spying for the Israelis from PLO Headquarters and they demand a meeting of the PLO Executive Committee with this spy being the first item on the agenda, and Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has no choice but to comply!

At any rate, the Palestinians, like many others in the Third World, have proved to be experts in the power struggle, even before taking charge of their own affairs. In many of these countries, the flames of sedition raged before the foreign occupiers left their territories or only a few hours after the last soldier departed! The current struggle raging among the Palestinians over who would take charge of the administration of Gaza and Jericho is something that shames any Arab!

O former or current "strugglers:" I wonder what the situation would have been like had the land been given to you all at once, not in "installments?"

Yemeni Foreign Minister Departs After 3-Day Visit

NC1811211193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1757 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 18 Nov (MENA)—Yemeni Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah and his accompanying delegation left Cairo this evening after a three-day visit. During his stay, Basindwah gave President Husni Mubarak a message from Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih dealing with Egyptian-Yemeni relations. He also held talks with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa on bilateral relations.

Papers Call Mubarak-Rabbani Talks 'Victory' for Diplomacy

NC1911074593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0605 GMT 19 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 19 Nov (MENA)—The newspapers AL-AKHBAR and AL-AHRAM state in their comments today that Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani's visit to Cairo and his talks with President Husni Mubarak can be considered a new victory for Egyptian diplomacy and a blow to the sides that believed they could poison things and shake the historic relations between the governments and peoples of Egypt and Afghanistan.

AL-AKHBAR said Egypt presented strong evidence, which no one can refute, of being the first Arab and

Islamic country to help the heroic Afghan people in their great struggle to thwart the fierce communist enemy.

The newspaper added that this stance was adopted while diplomatic relations between Cairo and Kabul were broken. But this did not find Egypt—its Government or people—hesitating to gather contributions and send volunteers to help the fraternal Muslim Afghan people.

AL-AKHBAR said this indicates that Egypt is always ready to provide what it can to support any Arab or Islamic state that comes under attack.

AL-AHRAM said the success of talks between Mubarak and Rabbani stems, first, from both sides realizing the roots of cordial relations between the people of Egypt and Afghanistan.

It said joint understanding in these talks was strengthened by both Egypt and Afghanistan following a policy of nonalignment and confronting every form of colonization and foreign intervention. The Afghan leaders sensed the concern among the Egyptian public recently regarding reports about differences among the Afghan mujahidin factions.

AL-AHRAM said the good personal relationship between Presidents Mubarak and Rabbani has helped enormously to realize the great understanding on various issues presented at the negotiating table.

Libya

Al-Bishari: Suspects Will Not Be Surrendered

NC1911073493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0702 GMT 19 Nov 93

[Text] London, 19 Nov (MENA)—Ibrahim al-Bishari, Libya's permanent delegate to the Arab League, has said that the UN Security Council resolution imposing additional sanctions on Libya "closed the door" on the trial of the Libyans suspected of involvement in the bombing of a U.S. passenger plane over the Scottish town of Lockerbie in 1988.

In an interview today with the London-based Arabic-language newspaper AL-HAYAH, al-Bishari said: "Libya will not hand over the suspects under any conditions, even if it were threatened with a nuclear bomb," as he put it.

Al-Bishari said the new UN Security Council Resolution 833, tightening the sanctions on Libya, ended Libya's policy of "compromise" on the issue. He said Libyan flexibility on the issue had ended and that Libya would agree to nothing, but the trial of the suspects by a Libyan court.

Mauritania

Cabinet Approves 1994 Budget

LD1511233593 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in Arabic 2030 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] The cabinet met this morning Monday, 15 November 15 1993, under the chairmanship of His Excellency President Maaouya Ould Sid Ahmed Taya. The cabinet studied and endorsed the 1994 budget which reached 38.169 billion ouguiyas balancing between revenue and expenditure.

This budget recorded a 4,883,585,100 increase. Tax revenues rose by 17 percent as a result of a tax increase on oil products, imports, and fishing rights.

As for expenditure, it is worth pointing out here, in the first instance, the semi-stability of management expenditures which did not increase, except by 3.7 percent. The reduction in this increase (?growth) [as heard] comes in the framework of strict efforts by the government in the finance sector. It is worth pointing out the importance of the quotas given to the health and (?education) sectors that form a priority to public authorities' activities in the social field.

This strictness on management expenditures accompanied a high level of investment expenditures that reached a total of 19.78 million. The distribution of investment expenditure is in line with the country's economic priorities aimed at pushing development forward. The distribution of investment with the exception of two [sectors] are as follows for each sector: Land reclamation 31 percent; industrial development 13 percent; rural development 22.6 per cent; human resources 20.5 percent; institutional development 2 percent.

It is clear that the 1994 budget falls under the dynamic framework to clean up the country's finances, to preserve the major balances, and consolidate the economic groundwork through suitable investment efforts.

Cabinet Sets Date for Municipal Elections

AB1811200593 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in French 1930 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Excerpts] The head of state this morning presided over the weekly cabinet meeting. [passage omitted] The Council of Ministers examined and adopted the bill on the summoning of the electoral college for the municipal council election. The bill set the timetable for the holding of the municipal elections. The timetable is as follows: The election has been set for Friday, 28 January 1994.

In case there is the need for a run-off, it will be held on Friday, 4 February 1994. [passage omitted] The electoral campaign for this municipal council election will open on Wednesday, 12 January 1994 and will end on Thursday, 27 January 1994. [passage omitted]

Morocco

Iranian Ulema Discuss Coordinating Islamic Rites

LD1711163493 Rabat MAP in English 1243 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] Rabat, Nov. 17 (MAP)—King Hassan II received Tuesday [16 November] a delegation of ulema from the Islamic Republic of Iran, who arrived early last week in Morocco to meet Moroccan peers on ways to harmonize Islamic rites.

During their meetings held at the academy of the Kingdom of Morocco in Rabat, the Moroccan and Iranian ulema agreed on the mutual respect between Islamic rites and on the need to enhance cooperation and cohabitation between the shiite and sunnite rites.

They also agreed to establish dialog between the two rites and elaborate a working document in a deadline not exceeding four months to be submitted to the next meeting to be held in Rabat to prepare a joint action program.

During the audience, the sovereign underlined that the meetings between Moroccan and Iranian ulema should be carried on in future to standardize the sunnite and shiite rites with a view to cementing Muslim ranks throughout the Islamic world far from any rigidity and withdrawal into one-self and without interference with the internal affairs of any Islamic country.

Islam should stay a unification factor, King Hassan II said, adding that Islam's practices and conceptions should not be subject to divergence and that the peculiarities of rites, which are not incompatible with the Holy Koran and the Sunna, should be preserved.

The sovereign urged Moroccan and Iranian ulema to continue dialog and enrich it through genuine scientific studies, because Muslims do not face emptiness when they have in common God's book and His Prophet's Sunna.

For his part, the head of the Iranian delegation voiced hope that the dialog will be continued to find a rapprochement between Islamic rites. After noting that unification factors among Muslims are more important than division ones, he hailed the Islamic genuineness of the Moroccan civilization as evidenced by the country's mosques, schools, institutes and libraries, adding that Morocco hosts many Islamic institutions that Muslims all over the world are proud of.

The Iranian delegation gathers Shaykh Mohammad Uayd Zada Khorasani, secretary general of World Rally for Rapprochement between Islamic Rites, Maoula Eshak Madani, advisor to the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the Sunna affairs and member of the Supreme Council of the Rally for Rapprochement and Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Soleyman Ghaffari, assistant for international affairs in the rally.

Sudan

Armed Forces Claims Rebels Violating Cease-Fire

EA1811190093 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1315 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Excerpt] Brigadier Sulayman Muhammad Sulayman, director of the moral orientation branch and official spokesman of the Armed Forces, has confirmed that the rebels are continuing to violate the cease-fire and to obstruct the administrative movements of the Armed Forces. His Excellency said the Armed Forces are adhering to what they have declared, namely that the administrative movements will continue and that their garrisons and members will be protected from any attack.

In a statement to AL-INQADH AL-WATANI, he said some hostile forces were making propaganda for elements of the defeated rebels with the aim of raising their morale. He affirmed that no rebel force is occupying or besieging any area. He said the victories won in the summer crossing operations had taught those banking on the failure of those operations a lesson and made them realize the capability of the Armed Forces and the People's Defense Forces.

His Excellency said the unification or otherwise of the rebel factions will not affect the morale of the Armed Forces, because they believe in one Sudan and are fighting for its territorial integrity not only in the south but countrywide. He added that the Armed Forces have the initiative and understand the intentions of Sudan's enemies striving to unify the rebel movement, but these enemies will fail to achieve what the movement aspires to.

His Excellency said it is too late for the rebel movement and those supporting it to contemplate the fragmentation of Sudan. He said that the recent Washington symposium held under the auspices of the U.S. Administration sought to unify the two factions of the movement to fight the government and separate the south. [passage omitted]

President Briefed on Delegation's Visit to Iran

EA1811194093 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, president of the Republic, has acquainted himself with the results of the parliamentary visit made by a delegation of the Transitional National Assembly to the Islamic Republic of Iran recently. This came during his meeting with Mr. Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, speaker of the Transitional National Assembly, at his office in the general secretariat of the Council of Ministers at noon today [17 November].

Mr. Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah said he conveyed to the president of the Republic a verbal message from Hojjat al-Islam Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the

Islamic Republic of Iran, emphasizing the continuing cooperation between the two Islamic states and the necessity of coordinating stands between them to support the oppressed Muslims. Mr. Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah added that he briefed the president on the activity of the Sudanese parliamentary delegation and the meetings it held in Iran, and said the delegation had met the imam of Muslims, 'Ali Khamene'i, and His Excellency the official spokesman of the Iranian delegation. He said the Sudanese parliament had extended an invitation for the speaker of the Iranian parliament to visit Sudan. The invitation was accepted.

Ramadan on Sanctions, Kuwait, Peace Process

JN1811160493 Amman SHIHAN in Arabic
20-26 Nov 93 p 12

[Interview with Iraqi Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan by Taghrid Sa'adah in Baghdad—date not given]

[Text] [Sa'adah] How do you assess the Declaration of Principles agreement between the PLO and Israel that was signed on 13 September? Are there new developments concerning your postion on this agreement?

[Ramadan] The truth is that for us there are no developments. Our concept of the Palestinian cause has always been a principled and historical concept that stems from the fact that Palestine is Arab and will always remain so, despite what some people might sign or pledge to do. We believe this is the people's right. No Palestinian or Arab can say Palestine is not Arab. Every official will be held responsible for his deeds. He is free to evaluate the step he has made as he wishes.

[Sa'adah] With respect to the dispute between you and the United Nations concerning the blockade, do you actually expect the blockade to be lifted soon?

[Ramadan] As is known, we do not base our policies on our expectations of what the UN Security Council will do. We do not trust the UN Security Council. It cannot make decisions. Decisions are in the hands of the United States. This is clear. This was not so clear one or two years ago. The UN Security Council pays attention to issues that interest the United States and ignores issues that do not interest the United States. We depend on our own resources. Based on this premise, we initiated the campaign to reconstruct what the "evildoers" destroyed. We continued to build, depending on our own resources. We did not wait for the blockade to be lifted. The objective of the blockade was to assassinate Iraq. How, then, can we expect good from those who planned to assassinate Iraq? Some countries within the UN Security Council, however, could change their positions.

At this time, I would like to point out that the issue of the blockade is more of an Arab issue than it is a foreign one. Some Arab rulers implement the blockade in a broader manner than outlined by the UN Security Council resolutions. We are confident that the day of reckoning and the day when shame befalls all those who participated in the blockade is not far away. We see this in the eyes of every honest Arab when he looks at those who claim to be rulers but work at starving 20 million Iraqis, just because this people abides by the unity of this country and the independence of the nation and refuses to be subservient to the foreigner. I do not know what answer they will give when the blockade is lifted. How will they face Arab citizens, not just Iraqi officials?

[Sa'adah] The Iraqi-Kuwaiti file is of worldwide interest. Where does it stand now, especially with respect to the border demarcation issue?

[Ramadan] We do not have any such file. This is the first time in the history of mankind that the UN Security Council has demarcated borders. I believe the Arab press that supported the aggression also promoted the way the borders were drawn. The way the borders were demarcated is designed to maintain the volatility of the area and keep it on the point of explosion. That's why we withdrew. We will not be a party to what they plan. Whether they make a Berlin Wall or install satellites, the man who has right on his side fears nothing.

[Sa'adah] An Iraqi cultural week was held in Oman two days ago. Is this part of a move toward Arab reconciliation?

[Ramadan] This has nothing to do with that. Matters cannot be taken in this general sense. Since the beginning of the aggression, Iraq declared that, as a rule, inter-Arab relations should be normal. Iraq has not closed its doors, even to those who attacked it. This is an old Iraqi principle. With respect to Oman, we can say it has differed from other Gulf states in the sense that relations with it have not been severed and formalities have been maintained. To a certain extent, it was followed by Qatar.

We do not know how this situation has developed. We believe any step down this path serves the country concerned. This has been our position since the beginning—normal relations among Arab states. Such relations should be maintained. Dialogue is the way to settle such differences, not an alliance with foreigners and urging them to commit aggression.

[Sa'adah] Talking of inter-Arab reconciliation, do you think it is facing an impasse? Why has [Arab League Secretary General] Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid failed to visit Baghdad, although he has announced more than once that he would visit Iraq?

[Ramadan] This question should be posed to Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid himself.

[Sa'adah] We have heard of a Turkish-Russian plan to lift the blockade of Iraq.

[Ramadan] With respect to the Turkish-Russian plan, I want to clarify this matter. Neither Turkey nor Russia have been motivated by human concerns or pangs of remorse. They moved after they were burned by the fire of the blockade and after their economies and their security began to suffer. We dealt with these realities in a positive manner. There is no friendship, just joint interests, provided that there is no intervention in our internal affairs or a violation of our sovereignty. Indeed, Turkey and Russia have been greatly harmed by the blockade imposed on Iraq.

We believe the blockade has done Turkey more harm than Iraq. This is because Iraq adapted itself and prepared itself for this battle, unlike the situation in Turkey. We believe it is in the interest of Turkey and Russia, in

particular, to defend themselves and deal with Iraq in the service of common interests.

[Sa'adah] How do you assess the situation in northern Iraq? Will you deal with the rebel leaders there?

[Ramadan] The situation in the north will resolve itself by itself. The situation there is a card in the hands of the powers of arrogance and hegemony. It is linked with the overall conspiracy against Iraq. We are confident Iraq will overcome this ordeal. I am also confident the situation in the north is only a temporary situation, just like the situation elsewhere in Iraq. There will be no dealing with treasonous leaders who are publicly affiliated with foreigners. This is a Kurdish demand, as well as an Iraqi demand in general.

[Sa'adah] Recent moves have been made with regard to foreign relations. Iraqi officials have visited Iran, India, the Philippines, and Russia. What are the results of these visits?

[Ramadan] These moves were designed to enlighten these states, who are members of the UN Security Council, about recent developments in the relationship between Iraq and the UN Security Council in general, and about negotiations with the UN Special Commission in particular. We wanted them to have firsthand knowledge about this issue. We did not want them to learn about this issue from the news media. I believe these visits bore fruit. Officials in these countries expressed a thorough understanding of the Iraqi position in this regard.

[Sa'adah] Iraq has complied with the UN Security Council resolutions regarding inspection. It has honored its commitments in this regard. Weapons of mass destruction have been destroyed. Iraq has supplied the UN Security Council with a list of its arms suppliers. Still, inspection teams have continued to visit Iraq. How do you assess the work done and the policy pursued by the inspection teams?

[Ramadan] With respect to our assessment of the work of inspection teams, we believe their work right now is routine and normal. These teams could be exploited through the planting of elements within them to create abnormal climates. But, their mission right now has become traditional. I would even venture to say that their missions will soon end.

[Sa'adah] How does the Iraqi leadership view the future of Iraq and the Arab nation? Is it optimistic or pessimistic about future prospects?

[Ramadan] We view the nation's future from a principled perspective. Our moods do not influence this perspective. We believe this nation will survive all challenges. It will forge ahead and make great contributions to mankind, although it is suffering from a deterioration right now. We have confidence in this. We are not pessimistic, even in the bleakest of circumstances. Our history provides us with examples that corroborate my argument in this regard. It is true that the circumstances currently prevailing in the Arab region are bleak. Likewise, there is a deterioration in morals and values in this region. This has been made manifest by the fact that agentry has become acceptable in this part of the world; some officials and rulers, indeed, boast of that. This is indicative of an extreme deterioration in morals. However, we find that the majority of the Arab people believe they are an indivisible part of this nation, and they act accordingly. That is why we are optimistic.

[Sa'adah] The multiparty system and the free press law have been legislated by the National Assembly. Is there anything new you can tell us about these developments?

[Ramadan] We are for pluralism. We have enacted the pluralism law. You might ask the question why these developments have not been followed by the formation of many parties in Iraq. I would like to say that Iraq is not like other countries in terms of leadership, president, or circumstances. Had there been 60 parties in the country, Iraq would have turned into a Yugoslavia or Somalia, an eventuality some Arab rulers desire. The pluralism law has been passed. There were parties prior to the passage of this law. But, it is very clear that there are common denominators over which there are no differences.

[Sa'adah] What is the Iraqi leadership's position on the opposition? Is there a possibility of talks with the opposition?

[Ramadan] With regard to opposition figures, they are sitting in the United States and Britain. They do not express the views of any Iraqi national. If you believe democracy will prevail in the country with the return of agents staying in hotels in Washington and London, I would like to tell you that notion is incorrect. These agents are fully aware that there is no place for them in this country, because they are worthless.

Regime Said Erasing Evidence of Chemical Attacks

LD1811185093 Tehran IRNA in English 1823 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Text] Ahvaz (Khuzestan), Nov. 18, IRNA—The Baathist regime of Iraq is trying to erase evidence of its chemical attacks on the marshland Arabs, before a United Nations probe team starts its inspection of the areas under question, disclosed an Iraqi opposition source said here Thursday [18 November].

According to the source, Baghdad has ordered clean-up operations and is hastily burying the hapless victims of its chemical attacks on al-Rumaylah near the Abu-Zuraki marshes around Basra. The attacks occured last September and October.

Quoting Iraqi physicians, he said that those suffering from the after effects of the chemical bombardment are

in a critical condition and have been transferred to the al-Rashid military hospital in Baghdad and the Basra hospital.

A U.N. fact-finding team headed by John F. Scott arrived in Iran last Sunday. Last night four Iraqi refugees in Ahvaz submitted a document to the U.N. team detailing the areas and dates of the chemical attacks. The group of refugees were witness to the attacks from close quarters before escaping to the safety of the Iranian borders.

UN Team Visits Human Rights Center in Tehran

NC1711171593 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1440 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Excerpt] The UN team of experts that arrived in Tehran on Sunday [14 November] continues its investigations into reports on the Saddam regime's use of chemical weapons in the marshes in southern Iraq in the end of September. Yesterday afternoon, the team members paid a second visit to a Documentation Center for Human Rights in Iraq. During the visit, the head and members of the team were given a detailed briefing by His Eminence al-Sayyid 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Hakim, the supervisor of the center, which is a non-governmental entity, on the practices applied by the Iraqi regime since the end of the war for the liberation of Kuwait to destroy southern Iraq's marshland. The marshland is the birth place of history's oldest human civilization.

His Eminence al-Hakim pointed out that after all other practices had proved futile, the Iraqi regime recently used chemical weapons in an attempt to fully dominate and control the marshes, which it had failed to control before. Al-Hakim showed the team members an important military document containing serious information and orders issued by the regime's commanders to commanders of the military units located in the marshlands to use chemical weapons in the attacks against the densely populated villages and areas in the marshes.

For his part, (Roger Hill), head of the UN team assigned to probe reports on the use of chemical weapons in southern Iraq, thanked the center for its cooperation. He thanked the center in particular for supplying the team with documents and facilitating appointments with eyewitnesses.

Concerning the military document seen by the team members, the team head said: It is the most important proof we have found since 1991. He added that international expert John Scott will leave Tehran for New York on Tuesday carrying this important document to show it to the UN Committee on Iraq.

The team also listened to accounts by eyewitnesses from the areas hit by chemical weapons by the Iraqi regime. The briefing given to the UN team members by the center head consisted of three points:

1. The Saddam regime's violations of human rights in Iraq in general.

2. The Saddam regime's violation of the human rights of the marshlanders in particular.

3. The Saddam regime's use of chemical weapons against villages in the marshland of southern Iraq on 26 September 1993.

The documentation center showed a documentary on the deteriorating conditions in the marshland as a result of operations to dry up and poison the water, bombardment and burning operations, and the forced evacuation of the inhabitants. Several important documentary reports on Saddam regime's abuse of human rights in Iraq were submitted to the team members, including a report on the chemical attack against certain areas in al-Basrah Governorate's marshes.

The UN team of experts left Tehran Tuesday for Khuzestan Province to continue its mission and meet eyewitnesses from among those who fled the marshland of southern Iraq into the border area between Iraq and Iran. [passage omitted]

'Normalization' Trend in Iraq-U.S. Ties Seen

NC1811204893 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] AFP, citing an official source in the tyrant's regime, reported that the Saddamist authorities had released U.S. citizen Kenneth Beaty last Monday [15 November] after a six-month [as heard] imprisonment for entering Iraq illegally. AFP added that Beaty's release was ordered by the tyrant Saddam after U.S. Senator David Boren, who was visiting Baghdad, made a request to the tyrant to set him free.

It is noteworthy that some Western media described the regime's action as humanitarian. Some U.S. newspapers quoted Beaty as saying that he received good treatment from the prison authorities who provided him with all his needs and permitted him to contact his family constantly and to receive medicine and medical care.

It is clear, dear listeners, that Beaty's liberal treatment, despite the hardships caused by the economic blockade on the country, bears no connection whatsoever to humanitarian principles. Saddam's regime of terror believes in no principle, law, resolution, or norm advocating respect for human rights in general, let alone respect for a prisoner's human rights.

The regime frequently turned down all requests by Amnesty International, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Arab Human Rights Organization, and other groups defending human rights to allow them to visit Iraq to inspect Saddam's horrific jails and the political detainees. The idolatrous regime even refused

to respond to those organizations' inquiries about individuals who went missing inside its prisons and the sons of the families whom it forced to flee Iraq or cast off on the Iraq-Iran border after detaining their young sons more than 10 years ago.

Heroic mujahidin who escaped from some of the tyrant's jails in Iraq's southern governorates in the wake of the immortal uprising of Sha'ban [March 1991] revealed horrifying facts about the mental and physical torture they had suffered and which was too ugly for the modern human mind to comprehend. These facts about conditions in (?Saddam's) prisons became known to all in the wake of the second Gulf war. No amount of distortion or concealment by the terrorist regime can abolish those facts.

Hence we can see that some Western media's comments about U.S. prisoner Kenneth Beaty's good treatment and the repetition of the same tune by Saddam's media was being played out in the context of the trend toward normalization between Saddam's regime and Western countries, including the United States. Another aim was to improve Saddam's image in the world, following the recent media uproar about his use of chemical weapons in his incessant attacks on our kinfolk in the marshlands. Also, this step expresses the obsequiousness and humiliation complex that the regime feels toward the United States and the West and its readiness to comply with all the U.S. Administration's demands in return for assisting it to maintain its tyranny and domination in a fashion determined by the U.S. Administration itself.

This step, however, as the sons of our struggler nation realize, will not bring any benefits to the regime because its persistence in power will not be decided by the West or the United States but the will of our heroic mujahidin inside wounded Iraq.

Resistance Attacks Police Center

NC1811162393 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Text] A group from the popular resistance attacked and seized the southern Naft police center located in the (al-Jumhuriyah) region in al-Basrah Governorate on 6 November. Three of the authorities' henchmen were killed. They were Nahi Matlaq Mutayr, 'Abd-al-Kazim Hammud, and Sarmad Sa'id Latif. Two others were wounded.

Our mujahidin seized four Kalashnikov rifles, an RPG-7, six rockets, a flare gun, and a box of small caliber ammunition.

Saddam Receives Cable of Thanks From 'Arafat

JN1911100793 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect and preserve him, has received a cable from Yasir 'Arafat, state of Palestine president and PLO Executive Committee chairman, thanking him for the cable of congratulations his excellency sent on the fifth anniversary of the state of Palestine declaration.

Saddam Cables Sultan Qabus on Omani National Day

JN1811131393 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn has sent a congratulatory cable to his brother Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman on his country's national day. The following is the text of the cable:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Your Majesty brother Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman.

On the occasion of the national day anniversary of the sisterly Sultanate of Oman, and on the occasion of your birthday, we are pleased to send to your majesty on behalf of the people of Iraq and in our name our heartfelt brotherly congratulations wishing you good health and happiness and the fraternal Omani Arab people more progress and prosperity.

May God grant us success for the wellbeing and loftiness of our sisterly countries and glorious Arab nation.

God's peace be upon you.

[signed] Your brother, Saddam Husayn

Saddam Cables Morocco's King Hassan on National Day

JN1811131993 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn has sent a congratulatory cable to his brother King Hassan II of Morocco on his country's independence anniversary. The following is the text of the cable:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Your Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco:

On the occasion of the independence day anniversary of the sisterly Kingdom of Morocco, we are pleased to send to your majesty, on behalf of the people of Iraq and in our name, our heartfelt brotherly congratulations. We wish your majesty good health and happiness; the Arab people in sisterly Morocco more progress, strength, and prosperity; and our brotherly bilateral relations continuous development for the wellbeing and loftiness of our glorious Arab nation.

God's peace be upon you.

[signed] Your brother, Saddam Husayn

Yemeni Social Security Minister Arrives in Baghdad

JN1811090893 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0805 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Nov (INA)—Colonel Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Batani, Yemeni minister of social security and social affairs, arrived in Baghdad last night on a visit of several days. The Yemeni minister will hold talks with Iraqi officials on fraternal bilateral relations in the fields of labor and social affairs and security. The talks will also deal with the ways of developing these relations to serve both people's interests and joint Arab action.

Confers With Counterpart

JN1811131093 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 18 Nov (INA)—Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of labor and social affairs, met here today with Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Batani, Yemeni minister of social security and social affairs, and the accompanying delegation. They discussed ways to reinforce cooperation through exchanging expertise in the fields of social affairs and labor and through strengthening the existing cooperation relations between the two sisterly countries. [passage omitted]

'Aircraft of Aggression' Drop 5 Flares on Mosul

JN1811193893 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Text] Aircraft of aggression on Tuesday, 16 November, dropped five flares on southeastern Mosul city in Ninawa Governorate.

INA's correspondent in the governorate reported that the flares, dropped at 1515 on Tuesday 25 km southeastern Mosul, burned out in the air.

Allied Aircraft Use of Facilities Protested to League

10-11 Nov 'Hostile' Sorties Reported

JN1511173593 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] Iraq has informed the Arab League that the rulers of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait have continued to offer facilities to U.S., British, and French aircraft to violate Iraqi airspace, thereby posing a serious threat to Iraq's security, sovereignty, and national unity.

In a letter to Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Iraq's permanent envoy to the Arab League notes that on Wednesday and Thursday, 10 and 11 November, these aircraft continued to violate the Iraqi airspace. Having taken off from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, they carried out 40 hostile air sorties.

Iraq's permanent representative to the Arab League included an appendix detailing these violations, and asked that it be circulated to the member states.

Letter Notes 12-14 Nov 'Violations'

JN1711133593 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1048 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 17 Nov (INA)—Iraq has informed the Arab League that the rulers of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait have continued to provide facilities to U.S., British, and French aircraft violating Iraqi airspace, noting this poses a serious threat to Iraq's security and sovereignty.

In a letter yesterday to Arab League Secretary General 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Iraq's permanent representative said these aircraft violated Iraqi airspace on 12, 13, and 14 November and conducted 127 aggressive sorties, taking off from Saudi Arabia.

Iraq's permanent representative enclosed a list detailing the violations and asked that the letter be circulated to member states to take note of these regrettable facts.

Butrus-Ghali Informed of 'Violations' of Airspace

'Spy' Plane Activity Protested

JN1711091693 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0815 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] New York, 17 Nov (INA)—Iraq has lodged a protest with the United Nations over the U.S. spy plane U-2's violation of its airspace on the pretext of conducting aerial surveys for the Special Commission.

In a letter received yesterday by UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali, Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf said the U-2 plane violated Iraq's airspace on 29 October and 1, 5, and 10 November. The plane came from its base in Saudi Arabia and overflew large areas of Iraq. The foreign minister said the total number of violations now stands at 184.

The foreign minister added: While condemning these unwarranted violations, we reaffirm Iraq's position that this plane is being used for purposes other than those specified by the Security Council, and that its activity prejudices Iraq's security and sovereignty.

The foreign minister went on: You have accurately assessed the true nature and mission of this plane in THE NEW YORK TIMES yesterday when you said: "I do not want a James Bond plane to spy for the United Nations." This assessment requires that the United Nations immediately reconsider the use of this plane to violate Iraq's airspace in a manner that conflicts with the goals and Charter of the United Nations, which stresses respect for the principle of equality and sovereignty for all member states.

8-15 Nov Sorties Reported

JN1911151693 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 19 Nov 93

[Text] Iraq has protested to the United Nations the continued violations of Iraqi airspace by the U.S. aircraft of aggression on reconnaissance and provocative missions.

A memorandum to the UN secretary general says that between 8 and 15 November, these aircraft violated the Iraqi airspace in 368 hostile air sorties over various parts of Iraq.

Iraq's permanent envoy to the United Nations requested the memorandum to be distributed as an official UN Security Council document.

'Strategic' Black Carbon Project Said Implemented

JN1711153793 Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic 11 Nov 93 p 2

[Text] Baghdad, INA—Iraq is currently carrying out the black carbon project, which is seen as a strategic project that will have an annual production capacity of 25,000 tonnes.

Dr. Mahdi Shukr Ghali, director general of the State Enterprise for Engineering Technology, which is affiliated with the Military Industrialization Organization that is implementing the project, told an INA correspondent that the project, which is supervised by Staff Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil Hasan, minister of industry and minerals and supervisor of the Military Industrialization Organization, carried out an experimental operation of one of its four production lines, which will produce materials used in various types of tires, dyes, leather, batteries, ink, and many other industries that Iraq used to import.

He also explained that the strategic project, which will start production at the beginning of next year, is the first such project to be implemented in the Middle East with national expertise and with Iraqi-made equipment. Such projects used to be monopolized by a number of U.S. companies. He added that the project has 15 reactors capable of converting black carbon powder into granules of various sizes, as well as manufacturing complicated electrical, mechanical, and electronic equipment and a giant concrete chimney, which will be implemented by the mujahidin for the first time. He pointed out that the project will save $25 million a year and that 1 tonne of this material cost $1,000 in 1990.

Plans for 'Baghdad International Television' Reported

JN1711212393 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 14 Oct 93 p 8

[Excerpt] While viewers await the start of Baghdad International Television transmission to project Iraq's good reputation and role on an international level, a television production center has been established, with well-known artist, Faysal al-Yasiri, as its director.

Was the center established to replace the international television network project, as some people believe, and what are the main goals and practical steps for which the center was set up? These questions were posed to the center's director, artist Faysal al-Yasiri, who talked in his usually brilliant language, and printed on the last page of the paper. He said:

The Baghdad television project still exists, and media officials are aware of the need to establish an Iraqi channel to convey Iraq's vision, viewpoint, and cultural achievements to the outer world. The main characteristic of this channel is that it will transmit via satellites. Iraq used Intelsat before many other states, played a role in Arabsat, and leased the Arab channel, known as Channel 23, although current circumstances prevent such a lease. Despite this, the political and media leadership have taken measures to prepare for this project. They have formed a committee under the culture and information minister and drawn up a comprehensive concept of the program, its means of production, and even the organizational and administrative framework of the project, which is awaiting a final decision. [passage omitted]

Newspapers Reportedly Sold as 'Contraband Goods'

JN1811141093 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 14 Nov 93 p 8

["Orbits" column by Dr. Khalid al-Rawi: "Internal Siege on the Press"]

[Text] It is ironic that Iraqi newspapers, which are devoting their efforts to thwarting and removing the siege on Iraq, should be confronted with an internal siege the moment they come off the press. They disappear (somewhere) and then reappear with newspaper vendors, at kiosks, and some bookshops to be sold at exorbitant prices.

As avid readers, we no longer buy a newspaper for the amount of money specified on it. Indeed some of the papers are vanishing and being sold as contraband goods.

It is said that the external siege has prompted the papers to reduce their circulation. But tens of thousands of copies are being printed and we would like to stress our right to obtain our papers which we still love to read despite our observations about them.

In any case, when we pay for our newspapers several time more than their official price we become certain that we are being blackmailed and we feel bitter and indignant. We wonder, is there a solution to this additional siege, which is being imposed by gangs of people living among us? The response to this question is silence.

We ask why the competent authorities do not intervene to make a decision on this shameful situation so the citizen will at least be convinced that when these newspapers—the conscience of the people—are subjected to such serious violation, they are going along the mainstream of the negative phenomena and so that this citizen will be convinced that he has to accept these negative phenomena as long as the newspapers, which should be feared by the crooked ones, are being distributed by this blackmailing method?

I hope I manage to obtain a copy of AL-JUMHURIYAH in which this article will appear.

Israel, Syria 'Close' to Reciprocal Declarations

TA1911075893 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 19 Nov 93 pp A1, A8

[Report by Hemi Shalev, Gay Bekhor, and Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpts] Israel and Syria are very close to an Israeli declaration concerning its readiness in principle to cede sovereignty on the Golan Heights in exchange for a Syrian declaration about readiness in principle to establish formal relations with Israel. This was stated last night by knowledgeable sources in Jerusalem.

The sources said that during his Middle East visit at the beginning of December, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will try to achieve a final agreement on the reciprocal declaration. The sources believe that Christopher will propose a mechanism for a long-range, gradual process toward a full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan and normal relations between the two countries. He will also make the first explicit proposal regarding the deployment of U.S. and other forces on the evacuated Golan Heights areas.

If a breakthrough is achieved in principle, Christopher is expected to announce a date—apparently in mid-January—for the resumption of the Washington peace talks. At these talks, an agenda for future meetings similar to the one signed with Jordan in September will be formulated and practical discussions on various issues will be launched.

In parallel, Christopher will propose the establishment of a secret channel for Israeli-Syrian talks, as requested by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in his talks in Washington last week. Christopher's visit to the region will be preceded by one by Dennis Ross, the State Department peace talks coordinator, who will prepare the secretary's meetings.

Political elements believe that Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres are now aware of the need to achieve a breakthrough with Syria, realizing that it is now "all or nothing." The elements believe that ever since Peres' 3 November talks with Jordan's King Husayn and despite the victory of the supporters of the peace process in Jordan, the king has been reluctant to advertise the agreement of principles finalized with Peres unless it is preceded by progress with Syria.

Israel further understands that its northern border will not be quiet without progress with Syria. In one of U.S. President Bill Clinton's recent telephone conversations with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and in other Washington messages to Damascus, the Americans made it clear to the Syrians that they do not intend to abandon the Syrian arena in the political negotiations.

Jerusalem believes that the "new proposals" discussed in Damascus yesterday were promised in the American messages. Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' said yesterday that in a telephone conversation, Christopher promised to raise new ideas pertaining to the Israeli-Syrian negotiations. [passage omitted]

The Jerusalem elements stated that during his July visit to the region, Christopher was on the verge of a breakthrough toward an Israeli-Syrian understanding on the principles of an arrangement, but he later dropped the issue, first because of his and his team's summer vacation, and later as a result of Israel's request to suspend the negotiations with Syria in the wake of the agreement with the PLO.

The elements announced that as far back as in July, the Syrians understood that Israel will be ready to cede sovereignty on the Golan in exchange for a Syrian declaration about the establishment of full peace, while Israel understood that Syria will be ready to make such peace. Nevertheless the elements expect the Syrians to agree to the establishment of mere formal relations, devoid of other signs of normalization such as open borders and free trade. Syria, the elements said, will agree to nothing beyond "cold peace." [passage omitted]

Opposition-Coalition MK's To Form Golan Lobby Team

TA1611160293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] The Golan lobby at the Knesset today decided to set up a team made of opposition and coalition members to discuss the proposal to legislate a Golan Heights law. Labor Knesset Member [MK] Avigdor Qahalani, the chairman of the lobby, said that the Labor MK's will confer with the prime minister before they decide how to act in this regard.

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that Labor MK Eli Goldschmidt called on the prime minister and the foreign minister to fire Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin for the remarks he made while in the United States, saying that the Jordan River is not Israel's security border.

Labor MK's Terminate Likud Contacts

TA1811160393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Text] Labor Knesset members [MK's] who are members of the Golan lobby announced they are terminating their contacts with Likud leaders who wanted to negotiate with them on a joint stand regarding the Golan Heights law. Our party affairs correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports lobby members MK's Goldschmidt, Qahalani, Gal, and Shefi said they have become convinced the intention of the Likud leaders is to drive a wedge between Labor faction members and to limit the prime minister's freedom of action.

Lubrani Blames Syria, Hizballah, Iran for Violence

NC1911101193 (Clandestine) Voice of the South in Arabic to Lebanon 0800 GMT 19 Nov 93

[Text] In a statement this morning, Uri Lubrani, coordinator of Israeli affairs in Lebanon, blamed Syria for the recent escalation in the security situation in south Lebanon. He said Syria is doing this because it feels disappointed and is trying to prove its ability to influence the peace process through the sabotage organizations, primarily Hizballah. He said Iran wants to obstruct the peace process and is playing the Hizballah card for this urpose, noting that the timing of the visit to Damascus by Mohsen Reza'i, commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, was no coincidence.

Commenting on the latest attack on the South Lebanese Army [SLA] post in Tallusah, Lubrani said the attack was no ordinary attack. He said the SLA led by Major General Antoine Lahd performed its tasks.

Lubrani noted that the air raid by Israeli warplanes on Hizballah bases in Ba'labakk was a signal to Syria, noting that Israel has repeatedly asserted that it does not want an inch of Lebanese territory or a drop of Lebanese water. The only problem between Israel and Lebanon, he noted, is the security problem, which must be solved within the framework of a peace agreement.

Lubrani regretted the restrictions imposed on members of the Lebanese negotiating delegation to the peace process, which prevent any progress in these talks. He said Hizballah is an obstacle to the security, stability, and economic prosperity that the Jabal 'Amil people deserve. Lubrani stressed that no peaceful settlement will be reached unless the sabotage organizations, primarily Hizballah, are disarmed and unless the safety of the security zone and of the SLA and their merging with the Lebanese state and society are met.

Syrian Attache Welcomes Tourism Contacts

TA1811154693 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 18 Nov pp A1, A8

["Exclusive" report by Dafna Vardi from London]

[Excerpt] The Syrian Government does not object to the business contacts currently taking place in London between Israeli and Syrian travel agents and will not stand in the way of tourism operators who wish to sell package tours to the Middle East that include Israel and Syria.

However, at this point, only Israelis holding foreign passports will be allowed to visit Damascus. The Syrians said the final business accords will be concluded only after the two countries sign a peace agreement. Jamil Hana, the administrative attache at the Syrian Embassy in London who visited the world .ourism fair in London, knew about the contacts held by the travel agents and asserted that his government had no objections to them.

Asked about the package tours, Hana said Syria "will be glad to have as many as possible." This position constitutes a significant departure from Damascus' policy, since to date foreigners whose passports were stamped with Israeli entry visas were not allowed to enter Syria. However, the attache said, "times have changed." Foreigners no longer need to conceal previous visits to Israel, and Israelis who hold a second passport may now visit Syria. "We do not care where a person was born," he said.

Hana categorically denied rumors about recent contacts in London between Israeli and Syrian officials. "All the talks between Israel and Syria are being held in Washington only," he affirmed, and "authoritative communiques about progress will only be issued there." The attache, who has been in England only a few months, noted that Syrian citizens want peace very much and hope that the agreement between Syria and Israel will be completed shortly. "People are fed up with war," he said. [passage omitted]

Rabin Remarks on Polls Regarding Peace Process

TA1811193793 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1700 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says he will not judge the political process on the basis of public opinion polls. Rabin says that as long as he enjoys a majority in the Knesset he will be able to pursue the peace process. Mr. Rabin made these remarks in Canada this evening in reaction to the decrease in public support for the peace process. Our correspondent Natan Gutman reports from Montreal:

[Begin recording] [Gutman] The recent polls showing a decrease in public support for Yitzhaq Rabin's peace moves have reached the prime minister's entourage. Prime Minister Rabin, however, is trying to keep things in perspective, saying that he expected a difficult reaction. Mr. Rabin said he knew that Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad would step up their attacks in order to foil the agreement. Prime Minister Rabin also said he did not share the euphoria of the Israeli public after 13 September, and that all along he kept things in perspective. The prime minister says that as long as he enjoys a Knesset majority he will pursue his peace moves:

[Rabin] I have a mandate, as long as there is a Knesset majority which supports this. I will not judge the moves on the basis of public opinion polls.

[Gutman] Prime Minister Rabin also said he is determined to carry through his mandate to bring peace. Rabin said this was the reason he was elected and this is what he intends to do. Referring to the political situation in Israel, Mr. Rabin said he is not concerned about the crisis with Meretz. [end recording]

Rabin, Peres Said To Differ on Accord Implementation

TA1911083493 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 19 Nov 93

[Report by political correspondent Udi Segal]

[Text] Differences have emerged between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres regarding the date of the implem. ntation of the Gaza-Jericho agreement. The prime minister believes the timetable cannot be met as scheduled in a time of rioting by Jews and Arabs and a surge in the wave of terror, and he does not rule out the possibility that Israel may initiate a delay. Rabin underscores the security aspects in his pronouncements, and says he will not make do with piecemeal solutions—that is, reaching partial agreement on a few issues and continuing the negotiations after transferring some powers to the Palestinians.

In contrast, the foreign minister shares with Rabin the assessment that the interim period until the implementation of the agreement is a sensitive time that simply begs for trouble and for terrorist activities by the opponents of the agreement, which trigger a response by the settlers, who have a clear-cut political interest; however, as Peres sees it, the Palestinian police force will deal properly with terror by the opponents.

If asked, both men will dismiss these differences out of hand. The problem is real and serious, however, according to a senior political source, and stems from the fact that both men are right. Powers cannot be transferred at a time of unrest, but the earlier we do it the better, the source said.

This is not a new issue. It goes back to the Oslo agreement, but has been underscored by recent developments. We have learned that in the deliberations on the agreement of principles, Israel demanded a long period for the implementation but the Palestinians objected, saying that they need a closer date to impart a sense of immediate change. When the Israelis asked what would happen if they do not meet the timetable, the Palestinians replied: Then we will continue with the negotiations.

The Israelis accepted their position and today, in hindsight, they congratulate themselves on it because they know that a longer interim period would have led to more serious terrorist activities both by Syria and the rejectionist organizations.

Incidentally, the Palestinians find themselves in a trap. They want to see results soon, but they are afraid of entering the area and assuming responsibility without having finalized the agreement down to the last detail. The solution apparently lies in the future understandings that will be reached in the Cairo talks, which have been making steady progress. Agreement has been reached on the question of withdrawal from Gaza, but big differences persist over Jericho's jurisdiction. Meanwhile, the clock keeps ticking.

Peres Denies Differences

TA1911121993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 19 Nov 93

[Text] Speaking in Petah Tiqva at a conference on the economy of peace, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said he knows nothing about differences with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin over the date of the implementation of the agreement with the Palestinians. Our correspondent Yafa Glick notes that Peres was referring to reports whereby Rabin favors a delay in the transfer of powers to the Palestinians because of terror activities. According to Peres, the Palestinian people are ready to receive these powers if they organize properly. Therefore, the process must be completed according to the agreed timetable.

As for the date for the resumption of the negotiations with Syria, the foreign minister said it will become known only when the U.S. secretary of state visits Damascus at the beginning of December.

Tzur: IDF Deployment on Eastern Border Vital

TA1911060893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Text] Minister Ya'aqov Tzur says that the autonomy in the territories will quickly turn into an entity bearing the marks of independence. In his opinion, it is time people sober up and realize that an independent entity will be established in the territories, whatever its official designation.

Our correspondent Shulamit Schmerling reports that Minister Tzur, addressing the United Kibbutz Movement political secretariat, said that in light of this expected development we must make sure that the IDF [Israel Defe...se Forces] will remain deployed along the eastern border and that the territorial continuity between Jordan Rift Valley settlements be preserved.

'Rowdy Demonstration' Greets Weizman in Qiryat Arba'

TA1911111993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Text] President 'Ezer Weizman today called on settlers not to resort to violent protests, after he himself was received by a rowdy demonstration when he visited Qiryat Arba' near Hebron. Supporters of the Kakh movement tried to stop the presidential car from entering the town, and police detained Kakh activist Barukh Marzel for questioning. Mark Weiss reports:

[Begin recording] [Weiss] A large banner hanging over the entrance to Qiryat Arba' read Welcome to the President, and flag-waving schoolchildren lined the streets. However, bearing in mind the president's dovish past and the fact that some of the most militant settlers live in Qiryat Arba' near by Hebron, the protests were almost inevitable. Small groups shouted traitor and PLO agent, and there were some scuffles and arrests. The president dismissed the protesters as a vocal minority.

[Weizman] There is an opposition, there is an opposition on the other side, too. We had things like this before, that people talked peace and bombed each other. Remember Hanoi? So, I'm still optimistic that things will move. I came here to give confidence to people here who have an uneasy feeling that their life is in jeopardy, that they have been neglected. Whether it's right or wrong is irrelevant; it's the feeling of the human beings here that counts. That's why I'm here, to see things at close distance.

[Weiss] The president said he understands the fear of the residents and their uncertainty over the future, but urged them not to resort to violent protests. In addition to meeting with the town's council, President Weizman also visited a small software factory and a girls' high school. [end recording]

Five Armed 'Terrorists' Captured in Gaza Strip

TA1811170993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Text] Five terrorists were captured this morning in the neighborhood of al-Wahda in Gaza City. They apparently belong to Fatah. They were found in possession of a handgun, axes, a knife, and a club. Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that the five were captured by a Border Police patrol during a routine check of Arab vehicles.

A Border Police post in Gaza was attacked with a hand grenade. The hand grenade exploded, but caused no damage.

Two 'Terrorists' Given Life Plus 10 Years for Murder

TA1811140593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Text] The Tel Aviv District Court today sentenced Mahmud Dajanah and Jum'a Musa from Shu'fat to life and an additional 10 years in prison for the murder of Sara Sharon in the Holon industrial zone some 10 months ago. Our correspondent Ron Nesi'el reports that the two terrorists had been members of a squad of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, headed by Ahmad Jibril.

Two other members of the squad, residents of the Qalandiyah refugee camp, had been convicted of the crime and given similar sentences. The squad members were also convicted of conspiracy to commit murder of Jews in Jerusalem.

Israel Poses Cyprus as Venue for Talks Committee

NC1711122193 Nicosia CYPRUS NEWS AGENCY in English 0812 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] Jerusalem, Nov 17 (CNA)—Israel is in favour of moving to Cyprus one of the working groups trying to implement the Israeli-PLO peace accord, Israel's Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and other diplomats here told CNA.

Israel's intention came at the start of a historic two-day visit to the Jewish state by Cyprus' Foreign Minister Alekos Mikhailidhis, the first ever.

During a dinner he hosted in honour of Mikhalidhis, Peres said "we need Cyprus as a Switzerland, to meet in a neutral group, in a friendly atmosphere".

Asked whether this meant moving the Israel-PLO talks to Cyprus Peres told CNA "this is what we're tying to do".

An Israeli diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity, clarified that "we will suggest moving one working group to Cyprus".

A source close to the Cyprus delegation here said this issue will be raised during Wednesday's [17 November] private meeting between Mikhalidhis and Peres and later at the official talks between the delegations of the two countries.

The same source added Cyprus was positive towards this possibility and did not rule out it may propose it to the Arab side.

Mikhailidhis said during the dinner that his visit here "marks a new era in the relationship to each other".

He acknowledged that differences between Israel and Cyprus existed, but "destiny is not for more confrontation, but for peace and cooperation".

Cyprus has followed a pro-Arab stand in the Arab-Israeli conflict, and never accredited an ambassador to Israel even though the Jewish state has had diplomatic representation on the island since Cyprus' independence in 1960.

Cyprus was "so close to us geographically, but so far away politically", Peres said expressing the belief that "today we start to close that gap".

He said there were differences between the two countries, but hoped that "we will solve them. It doesn't make much sense to have conflicts".

Both men paid tribute to the Israel-PLO accord, and Peres likened it to "a medical operation, it may be painful, but it is the only way to become healthy".

During Wednesday's bilateral talks Mikhailidhis will announce officially Cyprus' decision to accredit an ambassador to Israel later this month. The ambassador, Andreas Pirishis, will be based in Nicosia.

Cyprus, however, as a first step will open an office in Tel Aviv to house a commercial and a tourist section.

Oslo Formulations Said Being Reconsidered

TA1411125293 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 14 Nov 93 p B1

[Commentary by 'Uzi Benziman: "A Reversed Love Affair in Gaza and Jericho"]

[Text] Speaking at a Hebrew University symposium last week, Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin mentioned a short story by Yehuda 'Amihay which starts at the end and ends at the beginning: At the beginning of an affair, a man and a woman find themselves in bed together; at the end, they go on their separate ways, alienated, not even knowing each other's name.

The allusion served Beilin's intention to present a political hypothesis: Beginning the negotiations with the Palestinians with the main issue—the permanent arrangement—and deducing the relations between them and Israel from it.

Beilin raised this option as a suggestion for an academic discussion, not necessarily as a recommendation. Under his official title, which perhaps is also his personal stand, he does not necessarily favor skipping over the interim arrangement, currently discussed between Israel and the PLO. Nevertheless, this publicly expressed thought represents a feeling currently prevailing among some of the more central Israeli decisionmakers regarding the Oslo agreement. They wonder whether outlining the negotiations as a phased process was not a grave mistake. According to this assumption, it would be better to forego the effort currently invested in seeking the formula for the implementation of the interim agreement and instead invest it in the formulation of the permanent arrangement.

Some of the Israeli negotiators often feel that they were assigned an absurd task: Reaching an understanding with the PLO about an arrangement that is expected to be changed within a few months because of the following stages, determined in the Oslo agreement.

For example, the security arrangements and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment in Gaza and Jericho are due to change three to four months after they are made because the time will come to implement the clauses regarding the preparations for the elections for the autonomy council, the IDF deployment in the West Bank (outside the Jericho area), and the withdrawal of the Military Government.

The logic that guided the designers of the Oslo agreement was that there is a need to determine a working plan for an Israeli-Palestinian reconciliation that would be gradually implemented and the components of which can be controlled. They assumed that a solution in stages will be easier for both target audiences (Israelis and Palestinians) to digest—because it would have an appearance of a process that can be held up or retracted should it become apparent that it does not correspond with the expectations.

They estimated that the interim period is practically essential to the Palestinian side in order to allow it to organize itself for the moment it assumes responsibility over managing the territories. These important considerations are still valid today. Nevertheless, several developments and assumptions lead to the opposite conclusion as well.

First, unlike the original intention of the formulators of the Oslo agreement, it developed into a parallel agreement, which was signed in Washington and which constituted the real change: the Israel-PLO mutual recognition. The same dynamics which led from a limited agreement—headlined A Declaration of Principles for the Negotiations—to a document that drastically changed the relations between Israel and the Palestinians are still at work today. They create pressures, or at least new thoughts, to skip over the interim arrangement and concentrate efforts on attaining a permanent arrangement.

Second, the efforts invested in the negotiations so far, as well as that which are yet to be invested in solving future crises, create the feeling that it is a shame to waste it on a mere interim move.

Third, the Israeli initiative to incorporate Jordan in the process and to reach understandings on the terms for the permanent peace agreement between the two countries at this time will not come out well if, at the same time, the details of the permanent arrangement between Israel and the Palestinians are unknown.

Fourth, key Labor figures have recently been asking themselves why decisions regarding the nature of the permanent arrangement in the territories should be left for an unknown future. According to this line of thought, Labor should complete the work it has started now, and not gamble on the nature and composition of the government that will be in power in 1996 when, according to timetable determined in Oslo, the negotiations on the permanent arrangement should be held.

This does not mean that the above-mentioned considerations can change the working plan that was determined in Oslo, which states that the first goal to attain is the interim arrangement. It is possible, however, that this line of thought will become apparent from the stands of the Israeli negotiators when they attempt to deviate from the Oslo set of rules. Thus, for example, it is not certain that the elections for the autonomy council will indeed be held. Also, for example, it would be reasonable to assume that the Israeli security services will not ask for the right to chase terrorists into the areas governed by the PLO. It is also not inevitable that the PLO will take charge over the entire territory of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank (with the exclusion of the Israeli enclaves) without elections and with Israel's tacit agreement. Also, it is possible that Israel would refer to the PLO's ability to uproot the rejectionist organizations' terror in Gaza (without an Israeli involvement) as a yardstick and a

model for the future security relations in the framework of the permanent arrangement to apply to the entire West Bank.

Energy Minister Concludes Deal on Pipeline With Egypt

TA1911160593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 19 Nov 93

[Text] Energy Minister Moshe Shahal said he signed an accord with his Egyptian counterpart whereby both countries will at once proceed to make the preparations for laying a natural gas pipeline from Egypt to Israel.

Upon returning from Cairo, Minister Shahal told our correspondent Shulamit Schmerling that it was also agreed to integrate Israel in an Egyptian plan to link all the electricity grids in North Africa and the Middle East with Turkey and Europe. In the initial stage, Israel and Egypt will link their electric grids in Taba, with Jordan joining in later.

Shahal said that following an agreement with Egypt's Central Bank, Israeli banks will henceforth be able to deal directly with Egyptian banks without European mediation.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1105 GMT on 19 November adds: "Minister Shahal emphasized that all these achievements were made at President Mubarak's express orders."]

Another Soviet Spy Case Made Public

TA1111110693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 11 Nov 93

[Text] It was learned this morning that another Soviet spy, Roman Weissfeld, operated in Israel. Our legal affairs correspondent Mira Amsalem reports that the Supreme Court approved a request by Assistant State Attorney Rahel Sukar to make the affair public. Weissfeld was convicted 13 years ago of spying for the USSR even before emigrating to Israel. He was in constant contact with Soviet intelligence for the eight years before his arrest. Our correspondent notes that Weissfeld was employed by an Israeli plant which carried out projects for the Israel Air Force.

He is the third spy named in the past year who worked in a plant linked to Israel's defense establishment.

Jerusalem Mayor Assigns Portfolios to Parties

TA1211054093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 12 Nov 93

[Text] Jerusalem's new mayor, Ehud Olmert, has nearly completed assembling his coalition and assigning portfolios. Olmert will be in charge of education, and three people from his list will be responsible for security, municipal supervision, culture, sports, and social welfare. United Torah Jewry [UTJ] will get the portfolios of building and planning, religious education, public health, and infrastructure. SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] will get the sanitation portfolio and will head the committee on tax exemptions. Tzomet will have the environment, housing, and water portfolios. The National Religious Party will get four portfolios in the municipality, and Yehoram Ga'on will head the culture committee.

Call for U.S. To Write Off Israel's Debt

TA1311060793 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 12 Nov 93 p B1

[Commentary by Nehemya Stressler: "Yea to Euphoria"]

[Text] In September, when Yitzhaq Rabin shook Yasir 'Arafat's hand, everybody was euphoric. Economic analysts painted a rosy picture of future growth, the rise in the standard of living, and the shift from a war economy to a peace economy.

Now, two months later, it is no longer "bon ton" to be an optimist. The time has now come for "balanced" economists, who say on that on the one hand the peace accord will bring certain economic growth, but on the other, it will have almost no effect on our lives since what are we really talking about? A small autonomous economy which will have a marginal impact on us.

I am coming to rescue the honor of euphoria since all economic investigations and forecasts indicate that when the agreements with the Palestinians, Jordan (an agreement is in the works), and Syria are signed, we will all move into a new Middle East, a different economy. It is a fact that Israel has never been swept by so many economic delegations at such a pace and in such numbers—from Japan to Spain.

Since the establishment of the state, Israel has been suffering from what is called "the Israel risk." The wars which break out in our region every few years keep international companies away from Israel. Only 2 percent of Israeli exports are manufactured by international firms while in West Europe that figure is higher than 30 percent. There is almost no investment by foreign companies in Israel. They are simply afraid of starting up in a country where workers can be called up for army service at any moment. Nobody wants to invest in a country which suffers from defense instability. Even local entrepreneurs, industrialists, and merchants are afraid of investing and expanding for the same reasons. The "Israel risk" has therefore become a lethal drug for investments, development, and growth.

Another important component is the defense budget. According to national accountancy data, the defense budget takes up 8 percent of the GNP, but that is not the entire picture. The economy loses further production due to the three years of compulsory military draft and life-long reserve duty. We can safely say that these two items add a further 3 percent, so that the real defense burden is 11 percent of the GNP.

In comparison, defense expenditures in the United States are 3 to 4 percent of the GNP, in West Europe they are 2 to 3 percent, and in Japan, 1 percent. Something to really celebrate.

This shows us what Israel can gain, how it can raise the levels of education, health, and private investment and consumption when the defense expenditures drop to a more reasonable level after peace sets in.

The Arab boycott, although not often discussed, is a burden on the economy. It is responsible for loss of export markets in the Muslim and Third Worlds. Large companies in West Europe are afraid of buying Israeli merchandise. Japan, for example, made sure it abided by the Arab boycott for fear of an oil embargo on it. Israel also suffered from lack of import opportunities since due to the boycott, we were prevented from importing from cheap countries. The damage the boycott caused Israel can be estimated at about $1 billion annually, which is not an insignificant sum.

There has been positive movement on the boycott in the past year. Western companies, which up to now have avoided buying even a screw from Israel, have started to trade with us. The boycott has not been lifted, but it is waning, dying gradually—and that is one of the explanations for the large growth in exports. Not so long ago, China, Korea, Vietnam, and India were closed to Israel, which means 2 billion consumers. There are those who play down the importance of the new markets that will be opened to us in the neighboring Arab states. It is true, they do not have large economies, but tens of millions of people live there, and they will some day have a need for Israeli food and agriculture products.

When we are compared to the average person in West Europe, we find that there is not much difference. The level of education is similar, the level of entrepreneurship is no different, the technological level is identical, and so is the capital market in both places. The question therefore arises: Why is our standard of living lower than that of the average person in West Europe?

The answer lies in the limitations presented above: "The Israel Risk," the high defense expenditures, and the restrictions on trade due to the Arab boycott. Therefore, when all these disappear, our standard of living will go up and will compare to that of West Europe. That means a rise of 50 percent in the average standard of living, which is a big change, which will find expression in all aspects of life. We will then have a high standard of living, better living conditions, nicer cars, and longer holidays. Genuine and justified euphoria.

Israel has several things which can provide it with an advantageous strategic position to serve as a bridge between West and East, and to be more precise: between West Europe and the Arab states. Our economy, despite all the criticism, is to a large degree a competitive western economy. It has advanced technologies, a reasonable communications and financial infrastructure, and manpower that knows European languages and customs. On the other hand, we also know the language and customs of the Arab states. Therefore, Israel can serve as a bridge, a sort of management, financial, and marketing center for international companies which will link East and West. We cannot ask for more.

But there is something we can ask for and the request is put to Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. When he travels by car to al-'Aqabah or takes off by helicopter for the king's palace in Amman, he promises Husayn that he will use his influence to get the U.S. Administration to write off part of Jordan's heavy debt. We ask that he remember that Israel also has heavy debt burden to the United States.

We are talking about some $10 billion. Some of it—$3.7 b.—is a actual debt, and $6.1 b. were given as loan guarantees. The foreign minister will do us a great service if he manages to convince the administration that when they write off Jordan's debt, and after already having written off Egypt's debt, it is fitting for Israel also to enjoy having several billion dollars written off. Are we not party to the process?

Minister Praises Iranian-Jordanian Ventures

JN1811193293 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1510 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Text] Amman, 18 Nov (PETRA)—Dr. Bassam al-Sakit, minister of trade and industry, today received Engineer Mehdi Mofidi, Iranian deputy minister of heavy industries for economic and trade affairs. The meeting was attended by Marwan 'Awad, secretary general of the Ministry of Industry and Trade. Dr. al-Sakit expressed hope about the prospects for promoting relations between Jordan and Iran in all fields, especially in the economic and trade areas. He called for activating trade between the two countries with the aim of bolstering bilateral cooperation and the abilities of Jordanian and Iranian producers to export their commodities to neighboring countries.

The minister welcomed joint Iranian-Jordanian investment ventures. He noted that the laws encouraging investment in the Kingdom permit joint ventures. He indicated that Jordan has lists of investment areas that can be utilized.

Indicating that Jordan has witnessed industrial and scientific development over the past decades, he said this has enabled Jordan to enter new markets thanks to the advanced levels attained by Jordanian industries. He said that Jordan has a robust private sector that is interested in various fields of investment. He pointed out prospects of cooperation in the fields of agricultural industries through investment in the field of agricultural tractors, of which Iran is a prominent producer.

The minister stressed the importance of exchanging expertise and visits between businessmen and investors from both countries, in addition to the exchange of their products to give businessmen in both countries the opportunity to acquaint the citizens of the other country with the advanced level that national industries in both countries have attained. In this regard, he referred to Jordanian phosphate products and fertilizers that can be used in agriculture.

He said that the agreement that the Iranian side proposed to the Jordanian side, which aims to bolster bilateral relations of trade and economic cooperation, will be signed as soon as it is finalized.

For his part, Eng. Mofidi stressed the importance of promoting relations of friendship and cooperation between Jordan and Iran, especially in the economic and trade fields, in order to serve both countries' joint interests. He stressed the importance of overcoming any difficulties which may hinder reaching the aspired level of cooperation.

He also stressed Iran's eagerness to promote relations of trade and economic cooperation between the two countries through the establishment of joint investment ventures. He expressed Iran's wish to support Jordanian industries.

He said that Jordan's progress in various fields has enabled it to achieve good results in enhancing the capability of the Jordanian national economy. He referred to Jordanian industrial estates and their role in promoting various Jordanian industries.

Trade Accord Signed With Iran

JN1911095593 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Text] The Iranian and Jordanian sides today signed an agreement to increase trade cooperation.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] At the end of activities by the Iranian delegation, trade and industry minutes were signed at the Ministry of Industry and Commerce today between the Jordanian and Iranian delegations.

The signing of the minutes followed several days of talks between the two sides. The minutes included a draft trade agreement to encourage joint ventures in the two countries and a long-term agreement by which phosphate, fertilizers, and potash will be exported to Iran in exchange for Iranian industrial products.

[Marwan 'Awad, secretary general of the Industry and Commerce Ministry] In the minutes signed today, an initial agreement was reached to effect a trade exchange accord between the two countries on issues concerning the joint committee, its tasks, and powers. It covers issues related to transportation, transit trade, and trade fairs, as well as issues related to bills of origin, resolving differences by arbitration, and many other issues. It is actually a framework for trade cooperation. We agreed that it will be signed in its final form in the ministerial meeting to be held in the near future.

[Reporter] What is the volume of trade exchange between the two countries.

['Awad] Our exports to Iran in 1992 reached 20 million Jordanian dinars and our imports reached 5 million. Until August this year, our exports reached 8 million and our imports 4.5 millions. [end recording]

French Foreign Minister Holds News Conference

JN1811212493 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Text] French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe has stressed his country's political and economic support for Jordan. He also stressed the French Government's support for a resolution of the Middle East crisis leading to a just, comprehensive peace. He indicated that a $1.3-billion aid program for the entire region, including Jordan, has been drafted. He said this program will be launched when all tracks of negotiations begin to achieve progress. These remarks were made at a news conference that the French minister held prior to his departure from Amman for Beirut on the third leg of his Middle Eastern tour. More details in the following report:

The French minister said that France and Jordan will sign a financial protocol within the next few days, in accordance with which the French Government will offer Jordan financial aid. He affirmed that France is ready to help Jordan ease the burdens of its foreign debt. He said that France will do its best to reduce the debt within the framework of the Paris Club during the Paris Club's expected meeting next year on debt rescheduling. He indicated that his government will play a positive role toward this end.

He stressed the French Government's eagerness to bolster the existing relations of cooperation between Jordan and France in all spheres. He said France has asked its European partners to draft a regional aid program for the Middle East, apart from what has already been allocated for the occupied Palestinian territories. He added that French aid to Palestinians will be offered to the national Palestinian authority, which will be in charge in the occupied territories. This is because, he said, the Palestinian- Israeli agreement provides for the establishment of a national Palestinian institution or authority in Jericho and Gaza to receive the aid presented to the occupied Palestinian territories.

The French minister denied that his visit to Syria aims to arrange a meeting between Syria and Israel. He said that France is ready to play its part fully to help achieve peace in the region. He stressed that he has not been asked to mediate between the Syrians and the Israelis. He added that France is playing an active role in the peace process through its participation in the multilateral negotiations to prepare for the future of economic development in the region when peace prevails. He emphasized that his visit to Syria and regional states aims at reaffirming France' support for a comprehensive peace in the Middle East, and that peace will not be achieved unless it is comprehensive. He said that France supports the implementation of UN Security Council resolutions calling for Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and the Golan Heights so that peace can prevail in the region. He said that after that, there should be normal political, diplomatic, commercial, and tourist relations between Arabs and Israel. He added that France is prepared to take part in this process, and that it has informed the parties concerned of that.

In response to question on whether he has sensed a Syrian readiness to go ahead in the peace process, he said: I have developed the impression that Syria is willing to go ahead in the peace process, provided that the bilateral negotiations are resumed within the framework of the Madrid conference. I have encouraged this position by the Syrians, for the momentum that the peace process has attained cannot be halted. He called on peace-loving forces to do all they can to help achive peace, which must be just and comprehensive to ensure its success.

He said that his country fully understands the existing historical and geographic factors between Lebanon and Syria, and that they necessitate the existence of special relations between the two countries. France, however, he said, harbors special affection toward Lebanon with all its sections, and has always demanded that Lebanon restore its sovereignty fully over its entire territory. He stressed that all foreign troops in Lebanon must leave one day. He said that the Israeli troops must leave Lebanon in implementation of UN Security Council resolution 425. He said that when the peace process is completed, regional security is ensured, and threats are removed, then the same would apply to the Syrian troops.

In response to a question on the call for the deployment of international troops in the Palestinian territories covered by the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, he said that this is not part of the agreements concluded so far. He said that the process must be completed and its objectives attained in accordance with what is to be agreed upon by the parties and the international community, which has a responsibility toward this. He affirmed that France is aware of the existing difficulties in the region. He said that recent developments in the past few days increased tension in the occupied territories and southern Lebanon and have raised the concerns of the French Government. He said it is necessary that other Arab-Israeli tracks move ahead, especially the Syrian-Arab track, within the framework of the peace process.

Mr. Juppe was seen off by Talal Sat'an al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs, and the French charge d'affaires in Amman and the embassy staff.

Memorandums Signed on Canadian Financial Aid

JN1811185093 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Text] The government has signed two memorandums of understanding with the Canadian Government on Canadian aid for Jordan.

The first memorandum provides for a 15-million-Canadian-dollar grant to support the balance of payments. This grant will be used to finance private and public sector imports of Canadian commodities over 5 years. The second memorandum allocates one and a half million Canadian dollars to finance a plan to study the financial and administrative restructuring of the water sector, to upgrade the skills of the administrative and financial staff supervising the water sector in Jordan. The plan is scheduled to end by 1995.

The memorandums were signed by Planning Minister Ziyad Fariz on behalf of the Jordanian Government and Andrew Robinson, Canada's ambassador in Amman, on behalf of the Canadian Government.

[Begin Robinson recording in English] These projects are going to be related to the support for Jordan's economic adjustment program and its balance of payments, as well as to support in the water sector, which we know is of very great importance to the Government of Jordan. We're very happy to be of support to the Government of Jordan and we're sure this assistance will continue in the future. [end recording]

Left Concerned at 'Secret' Accords With Israel

JN1811175093 Amman AL-AHALI in Arabic 15 Nov 93 pp 1, 5

[By the political editor]

[Text] The question of a Jordanian-Israeli agreement has once again come to the fore of Jordan's political scene despite the Jordanian Government's media blackout. This development, which has been highlighted by regional and world media, could be the second leap after the 'Arafat-Rabin agreement.

The strange thing is that authorities in Jordan insist on denying the prospect of signing a public agreement with Israel, at a time when press reports confirm such an agreement has been finalized.

A senior Israeli Foreign Ministry official has disclosed that on 3 November Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and a senior Jordanian official signed 3 a blueprint for peace between the two countries.

Knowledgeable Jordanian political sources confirmed that a detailed discussion of future economic ties between Jordan and Israel was conducted at the highest levels. The sources also confirmed that an official Jordanian delegation had visited occupied Jerusalem to discuss the details of a bilateral agreement.

The sources said continued denial by the authorities of the possibility of signing a peace treaty with Israel is due to local and regional considerations, fearing Jordan would be the first Arab state to formally violate the principle of a comprehensive solution. It is also feared that Jordan would be accused of weakening Syria's strong cards. The sources emphasized that Jordan's constant concern about the positions and reactions of neighboring states. Such calculations have marked Jordanian policy for decades.

The sources further pointed out that Jordan and Israel might begin implementing the agreements on all levels without making a public announcement.

U.S. President Bill Clinton expressed happiness about the progress reported in the Jordanian-Israeli negotiations. He said, however, that formal endorsement of a Jordanian-Israeli treaty would not take place during the Israeli prime minister's visit to Washington.

Contacted by AL-AHALI, leftist opposition sources have expressed amazement at the way the government is handling and keeping secret such a fateful question that affects the lives and interests of an overwhelming majority of Jordanians. The sources said the government is acting in the spirit of the old rules, despite all the claims about democracy and openness.

An official leftist source said the economic agreements, detailed by the Israeli media, should be thoroughly debated by all Jordanians, since these agreements affect all strata of Jordanian society. The source went on: Jordan is not a private estate so any individual can make unilateral decisions that concern its fate. The government has placed the country in a narrow corner by keeping talks and agreements with the Israelis within the framework of private bilateral relations.

The source cautioned the Jordanian and Palestinian sides against one-upping and competing to conclude economic deals with the Israelis at the expense of the interests of the Palestinian and Jordanian people. At the same time, Jordan's joining the bazaar of separate economic deals will be of no benefit to its economy, especially since the future of trade transactions and the flow of goods and capital between Jordan and the Palestinian entity is still vague and uncertain.

Jordanian and Palestinian quarters in Amman fear Jordan's policy for the next stage—or one of its options which is developing slowly these days—would be to again compete with the PLO over Palestinian representation. These quarters said there should be a close reading of the platforms of some candidates to the parliamentary elections, who are counted as pro-establishment figures, as well as some newspaper columnists, who all openly call for giving precedence to regional Jordanian interests, even at the expense of Palestinian national interests, including their independence. These quarters warned of the dangers of such an attitude at this time in particular, since this could jeopardize the balance of Jordanian national unity and tamper with the future and higher interests of the two peoples.

Ahmad al-Lawzi Appointed Senate President

JN1811172093 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Text] A Royal decree has been issued appointing His Excellency Ahmad al-Lawzi as president of the Senate as of 23 November 1993.

Royal Decree Names New Senate

JN1811171893 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Royal decree by King Husyan of Jordan appointing new Jordanian Senate; date and place not given—read by announcer]

[Text] We, Husayn I, king of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, in accordance with Article 36 of the Constitution, we decree the appointment of the following dignitaries as members in the Senate as of 23 November 1993:

1. His Excellency Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali.
2. His Excellency Bahjat al-Talhuni.
3. His Excellency Ahmad al-Lawzi.
4. His Excellency Zayd al-Rifa'i.
5. His Excellency Mudar Badran.
6. His Excellency Ahmad 'Ubaydat.
7. His Excellency Ahmad al-Tarawinah.
8. His Excellency 'Izz-al-Din al-Mufti.
9. His Excellency 'Abdallah Salah.
10. His Excellency Dhuqan al-Hindawi.

11. His Excellency Field Marshal Habis al-Majali.
12. His Excellency 'Amir Khammash.
13. His Excellency Dr. Jamal Nasir.
14. His Excellency Salim Masa'idah.
15. His Excellency Ma'n Abu-Nuwar.
16. His Excellency Kamil Abu-Jabir.
17. His Excellency Marwan al-Humud.
18. His Eminence Shaykh 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Khayyat.
19. His Excellency Dr. Raja'i al-Mu'ashshir.
20. His Excellency Kamil al-Sharif.
21. His Excellency Dr. Sa'id al-Tall.
22. His Excellency Tahir Hikmat.
23. His Excellency Dr. Jawad al-'Anani.
24. Her Excellency Layla Sharaf.
25. His Excellency Dr. Nasir-al-Din al-Asad.
26. His Excellency Dr. 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat.
27. His Excellency Jawdat al-Subul.
28. His Excellency Muhammad 'Awdah al-Qur'an.
29. His Excellency Nazir Rashid.
30. His Excellency Dr. Dawud Hananiya.
31. His Excellency Dr. Kamal al-Sha'ir.
32. His Excellency 'Abd-al-Majid Shuman.
33. His Excellency Ahmad al-Sa'ud al-'Adwan.
34. His Excellency Dr. Ashraf al-Kurdi.
35. His Excellency Hammad al-Ma'ayitah.
36. His Excellency Dr. Ghayth Shubaylat.
37. His Excellency Sami Mithqal al-Fayiz.
38. His Excellency Shaykh Mashhur Abu-Tayih.
39. Her Excellency Na'ilah al-Rashdan.
40. His Excellency Shaykh Sitan Mijhim al-Madi.

Accusations of Election-Rigging Explored

JN1911130693 Amman AL-SABIL in Arabic 16-23 Nov 93 p 24

["More Than A Word" column by Hilmi al-Asmar: "Rigging"]

[Text] How painful is the talk about election rigging, which has spread to every club and gathering in our society. You can hardly go anywhere without hearing different stories about violations that reached a very serious point on more than one occasion.

To be fair, we must say that the accusations regarding election rigging were not confined to official quarters, but also included popular quarters. This means, if the claims are true, that the government and the people have contributed to election rigging.

From the very beginning, I mean since the outset of the march of democracy in 1989, elections have been characterized by honesty and neutrality. This was an object of admiration inside and outside the homeland. In other words, all sides were unanimous that the 1989 elections were conducted in an honest and neutral way. Based on this, if the 1993 elections proved to have been rigged and violated, then all the efforts by our government and people will have been to no avail. In light of this, removing these stains, even if they are merely rumors and insinuations, is the national responsibility of the state and the people. This is because accusations here include all sides without exception, and indicate a serious disorder that must be repaired. This, we believe, can only be achieved by taking the accusations by candidates to the House of Representatives very seriously and carefully and removing all the blemishes and defects that have stained the elections through a comprehensive review of all the positions that witnessed true violations.

Still, talking about election rigging means that the accusations are mainly leveled against the government, regardless of who has really done this. This is because the government is the side that has the power to conduct elections, control them, and guarantee their cleanness.

Based on this, we expect that the government will be very concerned about acquitting itself of rigging accusations and claims, whether the accused are government officials, employees, or citizens. This is because no citizen, whoever he maybe, would tamper with elections, had the atmosphere not been prepared for such tampering.

French Minister Juppe Arrives, Met by Buwayz

NC1811175893 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Text] French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe arrived in Beirut at approximately 1730 this evening as part of his regional tour, which also took him to Syria and Jordan. He was received at the airport by Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz. After he arrived, Juppe said that he hoped Lebanon would restore its national sovereignty in full. He reiterated France's interest in promoting trade, economic, and cultural relations between the two countries, as well as cooperation in security matters. He noted that his talks with Lebanese officials will touch on the negotiations with Israel.

Minister Buwayz welcomed his French counterpart and referred to the important role France is playing in the peace process. He added:

[Begin recording] [Buwayz] I welcome His Excellency Foreign Minister Juppe and the members of his accompanying delegation. A visit by a French foreign minister to Lebanon is always significant because it shows the deep and historic friendship and cooperation between our two peoples and two countries. We believe that France, a country with a deep-rooted interest in human rights and international justice, has a fundamental role to play in the Mediterranean, particularly with regard to the peace process in the region. Thank you. [end recording]

The French minister is scheduled to meet with the president, the Chamber of Deputies speaker, and the prime minister later this evening. He is scheduled to leave Beirut tomorrow. It has been learned that Juppe will meet with Maronite Patriarch Mar Nasrallah Butrus Sfayr before he leaves.

Discusses Peace Prospects

NC1911080993 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 19 Nov 93

[Report on a news conference by French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe in Beirut following his talks with Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz in the Foreign Ministry on 19 November]

[Text] French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe yesterday met President Ilyas al-Hirawi, Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri, and Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz. He visited Bkirki this morning and met Maronite Patriarch Mar Nasrallah Butrus Sfayr.

The French-Lebanese talks began at the Foreign Ministry between Juppe and Buwayz yesterday. Afterward, they went to Government House and met Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri. They later visited Chamber of Deputies Speaker Birri at his home before proceeding to the Presidential Palace to meet President al-Hirawi.

At a joint news conference with Buwayz at the Foreign Ministry, Juppe said his country adheres to a comprehensive solution in the region, because it believes that if the peace process doesn't progress, it will collapse. He pointed out that the French Government is doing all it can to make the process succeed. He stressed that peace should not come at Lebanon's expense, noting that peace in Lebanon hinges on the serious implementation of Security Council Resolution 425.

Juppe said France will double its efforts to contribute to rebuilding infrastructure projects, telephones, and electricity. He said: I am moved by my presence in this city, which is rising from years of war. Minister Buwayz and I discussed the peace process and I want to spell out the French Government's main interests: France wants to do all it can to make the peace process succeed. We want peace and there is a historic opportunity. A major step was taken with the Oslo agreement, which achieved mutual recognition between the Israelis and the PLO, he said, adding: We know of the difficulties and the situation in the past few days is worrying: Violence is increasing in the occupied territories and in south Lebanon. Those who stand to gain from the failure of the Israeli-Palestinian agreement are seeking to abort it.

Juppe hoped that peace will not come at Lebanon's expense, saying: If peace and security are restored in the region, Lebanon must enjoy sovereignty over its territory and independence. This means implementing the UN resolutions, which provide for Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon and solving the Palestinian refugee problem, which is very difficult. A solution includes the withdrawal of all armies from Lebanon—a firm position of French diplomacy. He denied that France seeks to bring Syrian-Israeli views closer. He said: I contacted Minister Buwayz and briefed him on the prevailing atmosphere in the region. I have not been entrusted with mediation efforts. I will visit Israel in January.

Discussing the French position on settling the Palestinians in Lebanon following the Gaza-Jericho Agreement, Juppe said: We discussed this issue and I know of the difficulties surrounding Lebanon. Solutions must be found; we reviewed some of the possibilities. I remind you that France is working within the framework of the multilateral talks with the working group concerned with refugees. He said the status of the 1948 refugees must be considered, not only those of 1967, with reunion of families emphasized.

Discussing his talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, Juppe said they were important and profound. I heard Syria's views and expressed ours. He said: I discussed the peace process and relations between Lebanon and Syria. I have not come to the region with magic solutions and you should not ask France for more than it can offer.

Buwayz Interviewed

NC1911081993 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 19 Nov 93

[Interview with Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz by unidentified correspondents following talks with French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe at the Foreign Ministry on 19 November—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] [words indistinct] the Lebanese-French talks?

[Buwayz] We welcome the visit to Lebanon by French Foreign Minister Juppe and his delegation. We believe France has a basic role in the region, particularly in the peace process. You realize that we as Arab foreign ministers have stated in all our communiques that we hope the EC will play a basic role in the peace process. We discussed particular issues with his excellency Juppe. Since the peace process is the cornerstone of this issue, we noted the danger surrounding the Gaza-Jericho Agreement, especially as it was not followed by efforts toward a comprehensive peace. I believe this agreement is weak and incomplete and needs to be accommodated within a general framework to become acceptable, reasonable, and a viable solution. We believe the process of separate or unilateral solutions does not constitute a sound method befitting a comprehensive peace process. On the multilateral talks, there are differences in views between us and the French side. We believe the multilateral talks complement the peace process. We cannot enter these talks while we do not know the form of this peace and since we are not yet sure that peace is inevitable. I have repeatedly said that we are not opposed to the principle, topics, or mechanism, but we have reservations about the timing of the issue. We want to make sure that there will be peace and be assured of its form and the map of the structure so that we can secure its necessary foundations.

[Correspondent] [words indistinct] French ideas regarding the peace process?

[Buwayz] Certainly, Minister Juppe has ideas on this process and some people share his views on the need for progress in the peace process and Israel's recognition of the principle of withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories. But there are issues that directly affect us, the importance of which he perhaps realizes.

[Correspondent] [words indistinct]

[Buwayz] Naturally, it is clear that the French Government, with its experience in and knowledge of Middle East issues and in view of its status within the EC and the world in general, is prepared to offer help and support to promote any new views on the progress of the peace process. I believe Minister Juppe pointed out that his visit to Lebanon is meant to explore the situation. I believe this tour [words indistinct].

Juppe Meets al-Hariri, Birri, al-Hirawi

NC1911090493 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 19 Nov 93

[Text] French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe met Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri last night. Afterward, Juppe said: I have met Prime Minister al-Hariri often since becoming foreign minister. I told him that France wants to help rebuild Lebanon. A decision to this effect was made last month during al-Hariri's visit to Paris, when he met Prime Minister Edouard Balladur. We are now looking at ways to implement this decision, especially in light of the financial protocol signed by Lebanon and France. I reviewed with Prime Minister al-Hariri the peace process in the area.

Juppe also met Nabih Birri, speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, last night. Afterward, Juppe said: I am very pleased to have met Speaker Birri. We again discussed the topic that is very important to me, that is, Lebanon's position in the peace process. I explained France's position, which I earlier stated to journalists.

Answering a question, Juppe said: I told Speaker Birri that France believes the best way to achieve a lasting peace is to reach a comprehensive agreement.

The French foreign minister also met President Ilyas al-Hirawi. Following the session, Juppe said: I raised the issue of Middle East peace with President al-Hirawi, who knows the difficulties facing the process. These difficulties are behind the current French bid to boost the peace efforts. France calls for a comprehensive peace agreement. France is pleased with the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, but things should not stop there. The Lebanese issue needs to be approached with the necessary objectivity. French diplomacy urges respect for Lebanon's undiminished sovereignty and independence.

Juppe added: We must point to the atmosphere of reconciliation that prevails in Beirut and the identical views expressed by Lebanese officials, from the President through the speaker of the Chamber of Deputies and prime minister to the foreign minister, something that gives rise to optimism.

Juppe was asked about the conditions required to achieve comprehensive peace. He answered: We understand that the UN Security Council has passed resolutions on Lebanon, including Resolution 425. France believes peace in Lebanon must be achieved by seriously implementing this resolution calling for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the Lebanese south. I have listened carefully to all the Lebanese officials I have met and I can state that there is an official Lebanese commitment to the resolution calling for full Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon. So, Lebanon is ready to discuss the mechanism of its implementation. Lebanon's understanding of this mechanism is objective and constructive; it can lead to progress in the peace process.

The French foreign minister said France is trying, in coordination with the EC, to help Lebanon in its construction efforts. Our contribution is probably modest, but it is made in earnest and in accordance with the talks held by Prime Minister al-Hariri in Paris, he said.

Juppe is expected to leave soon for Madrid. Yesterday, he visited Damascus, where he met President Hafiz al-Asad, and then went to Amman, where he met King Husayn.

Juppe Meets Maronite Patriarch

NC1911101693 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900 GMT 19 Nov 93

[Text] French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe has concluded his visit to Lebanon by meeting Maronite Patriarch Mar Nasrallah Butrus Sfayr. Afterward, Juppe asserted France's responsibility toward all sects in Lebanon, particularly the Christian and Maronite sects. He said: The meeting provided an opportunity to discuss reconstruction in Lebanon. France hopes reconstruction will be carried out by the Lebanese people and that this homeland will regain its sovereignty, security, and stability throughout its territory. He added: We also discussed the peace process; France is concerned that it should not come at Lebanon's expense. He noted that the peace process and the Oslo agreement coincided with worrying developments, notably acts of violence and tension in south Lebanon. France, he said, hopes the peace process will be more comprehensive. France is playing this role so that peace may be achieved with Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon and so that this process may be consolidated.

Visa Office Seen as Sign of U.S. 'Recognition'

LD1811123393 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 16 Nov 93 p11

[Editorial: "A Step Toward U.S.-Lebanese Normalization"]

[Text] The decision to reopen the consular visa section at the U.S. Embassy in Beirut cannot be separated from the process to normalize relations between Washington and Lebanon's "second republic."

The decision of President Clinton's administration to reopen the consular visa section at the U.S. Embassy in Beirut gives those looking forward to political and economic stability in Lebanon an undeniable cause for optimism despite the impression it gives, that the harmony of the ruling "troika" in Lebanon has not yet reached the desired or required level for normalizing the internal situation in Lebanon.

Nonetheless, one can conclude with some optimism, that the "second republic" in Lebanon has now earned U.S. recognition through its international credibility, having proved its internal and regional credibility over the past three years in the face of numerous local and external problems and difficulties. The fact that the U.S. charge d'affaires in Beirut emphasized that the reopening of the consular visa section was a first step toward a full reopening of the consular offices confirms the belief that Lebanon is steadily, albeit slowly, returning to the map of influential states in the Middle East.

The immediate significance of the decision is in the impression it gives, namely that it is the start of the lifting of Washington's restrictions imposed on Lebanon for nearly 10 years now, especially the restrictions the travel by Americans to Lebanon and direct air flights between the two countries.

The truth is that since President Ronald Reagan's administration imposed these restrictions after the U.S. Embassy in Beirut was blown up, many people felt that all the Lebanese people were being punished for acts carried out by some.

While acknowledging the U.S. Administration's right to take whatever measures it deems necessary for its security and the safety of its citizens, one has to say that the collective nature of these restrictions has resulted in social suffering for thousands of Lebanese families denied visits by sons or brothers from the United States, lest they face punitive measures upon returning to their second homeland.

Furthermore, the Lebanese economy has not escaped the negative effects of these U.S. sanctions. In fact, the continuation of these sanctions became, to many economic and banking circles, "an international indicator," though only psychological in reality, of the prospects for stability in Lebanon, and that prevented the mass return of Lebanese assets taken abroad. That "indicator" has even foiled numerous investment projects in Lebanon, particularly those involving American funds.

So, the timing of the U.S. decision seems to be appropriate for turning over a new leaf as far as reconstruction and development in Lebanon are concerned, and the first responsibility for doing that falls on the shoulders of the Lebanese expatriates, particularly those in the United States.

Israelis Reopen Crossing Points; Mine Explodes

NC1811131893 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Text] Israeli forces today reopened the Bayt Yahun and al-Hamra' crossing points in the western sector after closing them following the Islamic Resistance attack on the Tallusah and al-Qantarah positions on 16 November. Twelve South Lebanese Army soldiers were captured in the attack.

According to our correspondent in Tyre, a mine exploded today near the Shaqra township. No casualties were reported.

Mahmud 'Atif, Palestinian official in charge of the al-Bass camp near Tyre, denied he was the target of an

assassination attempt. He said the report was baseless and aimed to cause sedition and confusion inside the Palestinian camps.

Israeli Armored Convoy Uses Machine Guns

NC1911092793 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900 GMT 19 Nov 93

[Text] An Israeli convoy of 10 armored vehicles headed from the Ibil al-Saqy plain toward Hasbayya via Suq al-Khan at 0900 today. The Israeli force raked the roadsides with heavy machine guns for 30 minutes, while Israeli helicopters flew overhead.

Hizballah Denies Kidnapping Danes

NC1811204593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1910 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Text] Beirut, 18 Nov (MENA)—A responsible source in Lebanon's Hizballah has denied reports that Hizballah members intercepted and kidnapped a group of foreign tourists in the city of Ba'labakk, in Lebanon's al-Biqa' valley. The source noted that fabricating such reports suits the U.S. and Zionist hostile endeavors to undermine Hizballah members, underscore the U.S. allegations that Lebanon's conditions are still unstable, and justify the continued siege on Lebanon.

The Lebanese papers today published a report by a Western news agency yesterday that Hizballah elements kidnapped three members of the Danish delegation accompanying the Danish minister for industry and trade coordination, who is visiting Lebanon, while they were on a sightseeing tour of historic sites in Ba'labakk. The three split up from the delegation and visited Ba'labakk's marketplace. The papers quoted the same agency as saying that, after contacts by the Syrian troops stationed in the region, the three Danes were released several hours after they were kidnapped.

PSP Lauds Islamic Resistance Operation

NC1811141293 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1230 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Text] A responsible source in the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] has made the following statement:

When some Arabs are vying with each other to open up to Israel and extend a cooperating hand to it, justifying this by declaring there is no viable option but to comply with Israeli conditions, the Resistance in south Lebanon is demonstrating its effectiveness against the occupation and its Agents. It is retaliating against the occupation forces' daily attacks to prove that the will of the free, resisting individual is stronger than all Israeli pressures and terrors and all attempts to appease or surrender to Israel.

The PSP lauds the recent heroic operation of the Islamic Resistance in south Lebanon and salutes its heroes. It stresses that this policy is a basic option for confronting the Israeli enemy and its schemes and a barrier to all attempts at normalization, subservience, and surrender. This policy strengthens the Lebanese position on the incessant Israeli attempts to weaken and isolate Lebanon. Every possible means must be provided to safeguard, encourage, and ensure this policy succeeds on every level.

GLF Rejects Wage Adjustment, Threatens Strike

NC1811204793 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Text] The ministerial committee on living conditions and the Council of Ministers have decided to consider the issue of wage adjustment within a month. Talks were held with the General Labor Federation [GLF] and business owners. The Council of Ministers yesterday decided to raise the minimum wage to 200,000 pounds and increase wages by 70, 35, and 15 percent.

However, following a meeting by the GLF this afternoon, Labor Federation Chairman Ilyas Abu-Rizq announced that the Federation has rejected the Council of Ministers' wage adjustment decision and has called on it to reconsider its decision. Abu-Rizq called on the workers and the professional unions to take action in this regard.

He said that the GLF also decided to call for a general strike and demonstrations in all Lebanese areas after requesting permission from the authorities to hold such demonstrations or sit-ins. It called on the Federation's council of representatives to hold a special session next week.

The GLF also decided to boycott the official independence day reception to protest the government's position and called for a news conference to explain the GLF's position.

Al-Asad's Talks With France's Juppe Reported

JN1911094093 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2000 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Sana' al-Imam dispatch from Damascus carried within "Panorama" program]

[Text] President al-Asad received French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe before he left for Jordan. They discussed the conditions in the region and the peace process.

President al-Asad welcomed an active role for France to support the peace process.

The French foreign minister told President al-Asad that France has an interest in the Middle East peace process. According to the official news agency, SANA, Juppe said his government, which is inspired by General de Gaulle's policies, believes that peace requires an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights and the implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425.

Before leaving Damascus, Alain Juppe said his talks with the Syrian officials were thorough, useful, and extremely positive. He stressed that France supports a comprehensive peace, based on full withdrawal in exchange for full peace.

The French foreign minister said the tense situation in southern Lebanon is worrisome.

For his part, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' stressed that France now understands better the difference between the Israeli occupation of the south and the Syrian presence in Lebanon. He noted that his talks with his French counterpart focused on peace and the next step, which will be determined after Warren Christopher's visit to Damascus in the near future.

Al-Shar' revealed that he received a phone call yesterday from his U.S. counterpart, who told him that he has new ideas to boost the peace process following the talks he held with the Israeli prime minister.

Al-Shar' said no specific date has been set for the forthcoming round [of peace talks], saying this depends on what Christopher brings with him.

Al-Shar' added that he agreed to stay in constant touch with Juppe. Al-Shar' voiced appreciation of the French position, which calls for full withdrawal from the Golan Heights and which is based on the achievement of a comprehensive peace in the region.

The Syrian foreign minister said the Palestinians now understand the difficulties facing the Gaza-Jericho agreement, especially in the occupied territories. He said the statement issued by 'Arafat's movement, Fatah, yesterday, which attacks the agreement, is very good evidence of this.

Christopher Tour Awaited 'With Much Interest'

JN1911150593 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 19 Nov 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: We do not know what U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will offer during his expected tour in the first week of next month to advance the Middle East peace process in accordance with the Madrid formula's rules and principles. We have no doubt, however, that Syria will respond to every positive idea the United States might offer in harmony with those rules and principles and which meets the aspirations of the region's peoples for a comprehensive and just peace.

Pending Christopher's new offer, which Syria anticipates with much interest based on a sincere desire for peace, we notice that Israel's statements show it has not abandoned the procrastination that has been preventing any real progress toward a just peace formula. Israeli maneuvers are in full swing. Every day they float new balloons, some intended to deceive and others to test. Not one expresses a sincere and sound intention to make the desired peace, based on an admission that the first step toward that peace should be total withdrawal from occupied Arab territories. Without this, there will be no peace in the region.

The latest balloon coincides with preparations for Christopher's tour and with rumors of new and encouraging ideas from Israel, voiced through its Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. These say that Israel is now accepting the idea of relinquishing to Syria the principle of sovereignty over the Golan in return for establishing normal relations with Israel. These also say that this development, if we can term it a development, may pave the way for declaring an imminent agreement between the two sides.

Let us contemplate for a moment the expression of Israel's relinquishment to Syria of the principle of sovereignty over the Golan, as well as the indifference implied in that expression to people's common sense and to international principles, laws, and norms. The expression means that Israel behaves as if its occupation of the Syrian Golan through war and aggression gave it the right of sovereignty over it. So, consequently, it may or may not relinquish that right, at a time when international laws and norms clearly stipulate that occupation does not give the occupier the right to sovereignty over the land it has usurped and that sovereignty over land does not end when that land is occupied by an aggressor.

Israel may base the idea of relinquishment on the illegal imposition of Israeli laws on the Golan—an imposition that completely conflicts with international law and which the United Nations has denounced as null and void.

Gentlemen: Once again Israel is trying, through its well-known indifference, to deal with the world as if it were above international law, principles, and norms. In

reality, it is placing itself above these laws and norms by giving, preventing, relinquishing, and not relinquishing in accordance with its own law, derived from the law of the jungle.

Israeli leaders also want to hint that they have adopted a flexible position just by declaring they are relinquishing something they did not originally possess by any international norm, law, or charter. This alleged flexibility no longer deceives any one. What Israel should do to show it is taking the serious stand it has been avoiding is to refrain from, and even completely cancel, using the word relinquishment when talking about peace. Total withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and the recognition of the Palestinian Arab people's rights is not relinquishment, as Israel alleges, but a commitment dictated to it by international laws and the principles of justice without which peace cannot be established.

Iranian Revolutionary Guards Commander Pays Visit

Al-Asad Receives Reza'i

JN1811171193 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Text] At 1345 today, His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received Lieutenant General Mohsen Reza'i, commander in chief of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards, and his delegation, and Mr. Hoseyn Sheykholeslam, assistant foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The session was attended by Lt. Gen. Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief and deputy prime minister and defense minister, and Mr. Mohammad Hasan Akhtari-Foruqi, the Iranian ambassador to Syria.

Reza'i communicated to his excellency the president greetings from President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. President al-Asad asked him to convey his greegings and good wishes to the Iranian president and people. They discussed regional developments and other issues of mutual interest.

Al-Asad Stresses Need To Expand Ties

LD1811221593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Text] Major General Mohsen Reza'i, commander in chief of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC], met with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, in Damascus on Thursday [18 November] and conferred with him about the regional situation and bilateral ties.

According to a report by our correspondent in Damascus, at the meeting Mr. Hafiz al-Asad spoke of the fraternal relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Syria and the need to expand and strengthen those ties. He said that in past years the West and its friends have tried to disrupt the friendly relations between Syria and the Islamic Republic of Iran, but have failed to do so.

Major General Reza'i, IRGC commander in chief, who is visiting Damascus at the invitation of Syrian Defense Minister General Mustafa Talas, also met and conferred in Damascus on Thursday with Shaykh Muhammad Shams al-Din, vice president of the Lebanese Supreme Shiite Council, Walid Junblatt, leader of the Progressive Socialist Party, and Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine General Command.

Reza'i Meets Shams al-Din, Junblatt, Jibril

LD1811194493 Tehran IRNA in English 1902 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Text] Damascus, Nov. 18, IRNA—The Syrian Government has awarded the "golden sword" emblem to commander of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC), Brigadier General Mohsen Reza'i. The award is in recognition of the friendship between the two nations of Iran and Syria. The golden sword emblem was dedicated to IRGC commander Thursday [18 November] by Syrian Defence Minister Mustafa Talas.

Iran's IRGC commander Thursday also conferred with the Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, and reviewed Middle East situation and the Tehran-Damascus relations.

Earlier on Thursday, Reza'i reviewed the Lebanese situation in a meeting with the Vice-Speaker of Lebanon's Supreme Shi'ite Assembly Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din. Shams al-Din who met Reza'i at the Iranian Embassy here, appreciated the support of the Islamic Republic for the just struggle of the Muslim people of Lebanon against the Zionist regime.

In a separate meeting with chief of the Progressive Socialist Party of Lebanon Walid Junblatt the IRGC commander repeated Iran's support for the struggle of Lebanese and Palestinian Muslims.

Later tonight, Reza'i and secretary general of the People's [Popular] Front for the Liberation of Palestine [General Command], Ahmad Jibril, along with a group of members of the command council of the front, reviewed the current situation in Palestine including the popular intifada. Jibril said the issue of Palestine was the concern of the entirety of the Muslim world and that Yasir 'Arafat (of the Palestine Liberation Organization) cannot make a personal decision on behalf of Palestinians and the Muslim world.

Reza'i said world Muslims would not tolerate the continued occupation of sacred Palestinian [as received] by the Zionist entity. Reza'i said the father of the Islamic revolution, the late Imam Khomeyni, as well as the present leader of the Islamic revolution, Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, think of the liberation of Qods [Jerusalem] as a lofty goal of the Islamic revolution.

Request To Abandon Peace Process Rebuffed

PM1911161193 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 19 Nov 93 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Syria Rejected Iranian Request To Abandon Peace Process"]

[Text] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Syria has rejected an Iranian request to abandon the peace process in the Middle East and help to increase military pressure on Israel from southern Lebanon.

Iranian, Arab, and Western sources said yesterday that Syria emphasized its intention to continue the peace process and that it is seeking support from the EC to force Israel to make concessions.

The Iranian request was submitted to the Syrian leadership by a senior Iranian military leader and a senior Iranian diplomat.

General Mohsen Reza'i, commander of the Revolutionary Guards, and Huseyn Sheykholeslam, deputy foreign minister, held separate and group meetings with President President Hafiz al-Asad, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', and a number of Syrian officials which lasted 12 hours.

President al-Asad is still expected to pay a short visit to Iran in a bid to assess the balance of power among the various wings and factions there. Syria is still uncertain whether the new hard-line policy aimed at turning Tehran into a base for a new "rejectionist front" is based on a strong foundation of approval and unanimity in Iran itself.

The Iranian visitors also received at the Iranian Embassy in Damascus political and military leaders from Lebanese Hizballah.

It has become clear—after the two sides agreed not to issue a detailed joint statement on the course of the official talks—that there is a disagreement between Tehran and Damascus over the peace process.

Syrian media services have made no reference to an Iranian news report saying that Syria agreed to step up military pressure on Israel. And Syrian officials have denied this report in private statements.

The Iranians tried at one point to persuade Syrian leaders to suspend their participation in the peace process to give themselves a chance to assess whether the peace agreement between the PLO and Israel is going to succeed or fail.

But Syria worked to separate the two issues, insisting on its willingness to continue the negotiations with Israel on the basis of the UN resolutions.

After his visit to Damascus and meetings with Hizballah leaders, Reza'i now has a new political standing in Tehran. This is because—so it seems—he has succeeded in winning Tehran's support for a policy calling for supplying Hizballah with heavy and more advanced weapons and training more Lebanese Shiites in Iran. But Syria refused to move these weapons from Iran to Hizballah in Lebanon.

Analysts say that Syrian leaders are prepared to use Hizballah as a means to exert further pressure on Israel, but they do not want a state of war in southern Lebanon.

And despite Iran's demands, Syria has not yet allowed Hizballah to move its heavy weapons—which include tanks, armored vehicles, and rocket launchers—from the al-Biqa' Valley to the south. These weapons were withdrawn early in the year as part of the cease-fire agreement with Israel.

It seems that Syrian strategy is currently relying on reactivating the traditional idea that there can be no peace in the Middle East without Syria. This approach emerged during the talks held in Damascus with French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe.

Western sources say that there is evidence that Syria is actually eager to speed up the steps to achieve a settlement with Israel.

Western sources say that Syria's slowing down of the peace process was caused by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's decision, which seems to be based on finishing with the Palestinians first before making any "gamble over territory" with Syria, according to the Western sources.

Reza'i Concludes Meetings, Departs

JN1811202093 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1915 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Text] Lieutenant General Mohsen Reza'i, commander of the Iranian Islamic Revolution Guards, and his delegation left Damascus this evening, concluding a visit of several days to Damascus.

He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Lt. Gen. Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces, deputy prime minister and defense minister; Lt. Gen. 'Ali Aslan, chief of staff; and top officers of the general command of the Army and Armed Forces, along with Iranian Embassy staff.

Turkish Foreign Minister Denies Issuing Threats

JN1911072393 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0600 GMT 19 Nov 93

[Sana' al-Imam dispatch from Damascus]

[Text] Official Syrian sources told Monte Carlo that the Turkish foreign minister has informed them that statements allegedly made by him in Israel and disseminated by the press and news agencies were untrue. The minister assured the Syrian officials that his statements were made within the framework of cooperation in the region between Israel and Turkey.

Informed sources say that the letter that Syria received from Turkey through its envoy was cordial and that a joint security committee is now meeting in Ankara.

In his interview with our radio, Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam said that the media had carried sensationalized statements containing threats to Syria attributed to the Turkish Prime Minister. He said the media did not reflect official Turkish views. Khaddam said that the two governments want to promote their joint work and that it is not true that the Kurdish Workers Party has military camps in Syria because Syria does not allow anyone to establish bases on its territory with the aim of disturbing the peace of a neighbor.

Yemeni Foreign Minister Arrives for Talks 18 Nov

JN1811203293 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1915 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Text] Yemeni Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah arrived in Damascus this evening on a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. He was received at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', senior Foreign Ministry officials, and the Yemeni ambassador in Damascus and embassy staff.

In a statement to SANA, Basindwah said he is happy to visit Damascus, especially while it is celebrating the 23d anniversary of the blessed Corrective Movement.

Basindwah added that he carries a message to President Hafiz al- Asad from his brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. He said he will also hold talks with Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' on bilateral ties and Arab and international issues of common concern.

Al-Shar', Japanese Official Discuss Peace Process

JN1911083693 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2115 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Text] Damascus—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' this evening received (Toshinora Shishya), assistant director of the Japanese Foreign Ministry's Middle East Affairs Department. Walid Rajab, head of the Foreign Ministry's Asia Department, and Minoru Kubota, Japan's ambassador in Damascus, attended.

Talks during the meeting focused on developments in the peace process and the need to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region, on the basis of implementing UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and Resolution 425 on Lebanon, and according to the Madrid formula.

Mr. (Shishya) reaffirmed his country's position supporting the comprehensive peace. He said unless peace is comprehensive and on all front, it cannot be permanent.

Talks also centered on ties of friendship between Syria and Japan and means of bolstering them in all fields.

Assembly Speaker Meets Chinese Parliamentarians

JN1811204293 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1915 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Text] People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah this afternoon received a Chinese parliamentary delegation led by Wang Bingqian, vice chairman of the Standing Committee of the Chinese People's Congress. The meeting was attended by Muhammad 'Adil Jamus, deputy speaker of the People's Assembly; Shakir Is'ayyid, chairman of the Arab and Foreign Affairs Committee; Hasan Sabahi, member of the People's Assembly; and the Chinese ambassador in Damascus.

Discussions dealt with bilateral relations of friendship and cooperation, especially in the parliamentary field. Both sides stressed the joint efforts to enhance these relations in the interest of the two friendly people. They also asserted that both sides should exchange delegations and expertise and coordinate at international parliamentary conferences.

Officials also discussed the efforts being made by China to promote the national economy and its relations of friendship with Syria. They discussed developments in the region and the peace process.

In a statement to SANA, Wang Bingqian said the Syrian Government and people, led by President al-Asad, for many years has made intensive efforts to safeguard the state's sovereignty and its territorial integrity and restore the occupied territories. Syria has taken large strides to develop its national economy and cultural identity and to raise the living standard of the people.

He added: We admire and appreciate the Syrian people, who are hardworking and clever and who have glorious traditions of struggle. He praised the historic, long-standing relations between the Syrian and Chinese peoples, pointing to the silk road, which is the road of return and love between them.

The Chinese official underlined the growing relations between Syria and China, noting that this visit is in response to an official invitation from the Syrian People's Assembly to exchange views with Syrian leaders on bilateral ties and important issues of common concern. We also want to discuss ways to promote cooperation between parliamentarians in the two friendly countries. We are looking forward to seeing the ancient, wonderful civilization of Syria and the great achievements made by the Syrian people in all fields. He said the visit will develop relations of friendship and cooperation to serve the common interests of the two countries.

Ceremony Marks Corrective Movement 23d Anniversary

Al-Zu'bi Delivers Address on Peace

JN1811154593 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Excerpts] Under the aegis of His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and to mark the 23d anniversary of the glorious Corrective Movement, the General Federation of the Trade Unions at 1100 today held a celebration to honor workers who have shown initiative and excelled at production and public companies and corporations that won prizes during the week of economic contests and the voluntary work day set up by the working class last week.

Prime Minister Mahmud al-Z'ubi deputized for President Hafiz al-Asad. [passage omitted]

Amid shouts wishing long life for the struggler leader Hafiz al-Asad—the builder of modern Syria, the party, and the homeland—Mr. al-Zu'bi delivered a speech on behalf of the ceremony's sponsor. [passage omitted]

He indicated that Syria has shouldered the heaviest burden of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the resulting challenges. It was natural for this to happen, because the Syrian people grow up on the assumption that pan-Arab action is an integral part of their life and an axis of the Arab struggle for the sake of the Palestinian cause and Arab unity.

Syria is anxious to reinforce its pan-Arab position and take a determined stand against whatever weakens joint Arab action. Syria, he went on, adheres to a deeply held belief that a just and comprehensive peace in the region is not possible without the implementation of UN resolutions and international legitimacy. Syria, the prime minister observed, has turned down all initiatives that failed to take account of a comprehensive settlement or the Palestiniain people's legitimate rights. Syria, he noted, responded to the American initiative to convene the Madrid peace conference following clear assurances of Palestinian participation and a comprehensive solution on all fronts along the lines of UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425, as well as the land-for-peace formula. Syria realizes that true peace in the region can be based only on these resolutions and the evacuation of all the occupied Arab territories. Throughout the Washington talks, the prime minister emphasized, Syria proved its good faith and evinced its resolve to achieve a just and comprehensive peace through inter-Arab coordination. Syria, he went on, has refused all attempts to conclude separate deals. The so-called Gaza-Jericho accord was only an Israeli attempt to disrupt the search for a just and comprehensive peace. He declared that Syria shall not relinquish a single inch of its territory and that it is bound by a peace process based on UN resolutions and international legitimacy.

Concluding his speech, al-Zu'bi said that, led by President Hafiz al-Asad, Syria will pursue its political, economic, and social agenda and deploy all that it can muster to face the challenges, confident of the strength of the Syrian people. At the same time, Syria will pursue its constructive plans to build a free and strong country capable of validating its constant pan-Arab stands and principles and elevating its economic and social edifice and deepening its national unity and political stability.

Party Official on Peace Issues

JN1611194293 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1612 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Address by Sulayman Qaddah, assistant regional secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party in Syria, to a speech rally held at Damascus University Auditorium on 16 November to mark the 23d anniversary of the Corrective Movement—live]

[Excerpts] Brothers and sisters, comrades, masses of our great people: The glorious Corrective Movement of 16 November 1970 was not a transient political event to assume power. It marked the determination of a people and the need of a country. It was the way to adjust the march of the party and revolution, a starting point for construction and liberation, and a course for openness and change. It was launched by our party's rank and file and by the masses of our people under the comrade secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, leader President Hafiz al-Asad. [applause and chants]

It is the most significant event and the greatest turning point in the life of our people and nation. It embodied the originality of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, the sincerity of its objectives, and the depth of its devotion. [passage omitted]

One of the critical issues facing the Arabs today is the issue of peace. In view of its size, dimensions, and effects, the issue of peace must be the concern of all Arabs.

Since the October [1973] war of liberation, Syria has been calling for a just and comprehensive peace, based on justice, international legitimacy, and the implementation of the UN resolutions, within the context of a comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict; a peace that would return the lands and rights to their rightful owners and preserve dignity. Twenty years passed while Israel was obstructing all peace initiatives because Zionism's goal is to expand, to control the region, and control its resources, development, and future. Despite the experiences of all peace initiatives that were proposed over 20 years, and despite Israel's exposed maneuvers, we accepted the U.S. peace initiative and attended the Madrid Conference and the negotiations resulting from it in Washington.

More than two years later, it has become apparent that the Israelis have not yet decided to change the Zionist strategy, which is based on territorial expansion and

military, economic, and political hegemony in the region. This resulted in the fact that no progress was reached in the various rounds of talks.

It was clear that Israel's strategy is based on dealing with each Arab party separately and on pushing that party into making concessions that would allow Israel to force gaps in the Arab wall and achieve its major objectives.

The Israelis considered their agreement with a Palestinian party a solution to the Palestinian question and the Arab-Israeli conflict. They insult the intelligence of the Arabs and the world public opinion, asking the Arab governments to open borders and end the political, economic, and cultural boycott at a time when the Israeli troops continue to occupy all the Palestinian territories and part of the Syrian, Lebanese, and Jordanian territory, and at the time when the Israelis declare that the Jordan Valley is their border with Jordan, that Jerusalem is their eternal capital, and that the settlements will remain and they will continue to be responsible for their security.

What kind of peace is this? What kind of a solution is this to the Palestinian people's problem? What kind of peace is this, where the hope of repatriation and the right to self-determination are annulled? What kind of peace is this, when work continues in Israel to strengthen their combat capability and possess the most advanced and destructive weapons, while the Arab states are prevented from possessing even the minimum level necessary for self-defense.

Syria is committed to, and believes in, peace. It continues to work for that end; the just and comprehensive peace that will return every inch of our occupied territory, preserve dignity, and prevents hegemony. It rejects the call for partial and separate agreements under secret talks at any level. It always acts in the open. It has nothing to concede or relinquish. The path to peace is clear. We want a peace based on UN resolutions and international legitimacy; a peace in which we take pride, and not a stolen peace made behind the back of the masses whose advocates search for a cover here or there. Syria's leader, struggling President Hafiz al-Asad [chants and applause] has on several occasions expressed Syria's commitment to the peace process. This expression reflects our people's general consensus to reach a just and comprehensive peace.

We are not in a hurry. Our Arab nation has seen worse times and experienced greater division and deterioration, but has not given in. It stood fast and triumphed.

Comrades and brothers: In the face of the developments and challenges, the Arabs have only one option: The path of unity, solidarity, and cohesion. Solidarity is a national and civilized need. It is the logic of the age and the most effective weapon to face the threats, troubles, and challenges of aggression and occupation. It is the way of survival in a turbulent world replete with dangers that aim to subjugate our nation, plunder its resources and wealth, and threaten its individual's culture, heritage, values, and future. There will be no place in this world for the weak and the hesitant; or for those who are divided, who lost their determination; and who disavowed their nation's history. If unity and solidarity constitute an established pan-Arab goal at all times and a basis for achieving Arab power and the effective pan-Arab presence, they now constitute an urgent need in order to create a comprehensive pan-Arab strategy and fortify destiny in the face of today's developments and the threats of the present and the future. [passage omitted]

Afghanistan

Islamic Central Council Members Arrive in Kabul

LD1711192193 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] A number of Central Council members of the Wahdat-e Eslami [Islamic Unity Party] arrived in Kabul from Bamian [120 km west Kabul] by helicopters of the Islamic Army of Afghanistan. Included in the delegation of a total of 100 people are: (?26) members of Central Council of Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami-e Afghanistan, among them esteemed Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbari, esteemed Ayatollah Sadeqi Parwani, esteemed Hojjat ol-Eslam Afsari, esteemed Ustad Erfani, and esteemed Wa'ezi.

The delegation was welcomed at Kabul international airport by esteemed Dr. Abdol Rahman [deputy to Masud]; head of National Security, esteemed Fahim; acting commander of Kabul garrison, esteemed Lieutenant General Baba Jan, esteemed Lieutenant General Rahmatollah Raufi, esteemed Dr. Shah Jan, and esteemed Sayed Jafar Naderi [Isma'ilite leader].

A spokesman for Wahdat-e Eslami-e Afghanistan told a BAKHTAR Information Agency correspondent that, since the situation in Kabul city is calm and reliable, members of the Central Council of Wahdat- e Eslami came to Kabul from Bamian.

* Ahmad Gilani on Government's Legitimacy

94AE0026A London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 5 Nov 93 p 8

[Interview with "veteran Afghan leader" Ahmad Gilani by Huda al-Husayni in London; date not given: "Hekmatyar Will Not Be Able To Occupy Kabul, Country's Stability Subject to Changing Existing Government"—first eight paragraphs are AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT introduction]

[Text] Since the end of the Soviet occupation, internal problems have raged in Afghanistan. Fighting the occupation did not unify the commanders; neither did the country's liberation unify them. Liberation leaders turned into district leaders, and the leader of every group wants to become the leader of all the groups.

Afghanistan, its people, and especially the capital, Kabul, are paying the price. The world has lost interest in a country that did not know how to deal with its freedom.

The battles have not stopped. Sometimes they die down, and sometimes they flare up. As Afghans fell victim to the internal fighting during the Soviet occupation, so they continue to fall because of each leader's desire to have absolute power in Afghanistan, a country of many tribes, special customs, and distinct traditions.

As battles intensify now between the forces of Ahmad Shah Mas'ud and those of Golboddin Hekmatyar, Mr. Ahmad Gilani is calling for a change in the situation in Afghanistan to save the country from the clutches of the rivals for power.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT's weekly interview took place with Ahmad Gilani in London, before he traveled to Rome to meet the former king of Afghanistan, Zaher Shah.

Gilani is well-known as a veteran Afghan leader. He fought the occupation, but refused to fight against his own Afghan people. He is now working to take over the position of prime minister, to replace Hekmatyar. In particular, he enjoys the support of Afghanistan's two most powerful factions, those of Ahmad Shah Mas'ud and 'Abdol Rashid Dustam (Uzbek), as well as that of Esma'il Agha, the governor of Herat. He also has support from the other factions and from President Borhanoddin Rabbani. In this interview, Ahmad Gilani speaks about his program to save the country and on his preconditions for accepting office.

He calls for the Supreme Council to meet to prepare for the convening of the Jirga. He doubts that Hekmatyar will be able to occupy Kabul this month. If he becomes prime minister, he expects to reestablish a national army, collect weapons from all the organizations, and restore stability to Afghanistan by imposing law and order.

He denied wanting to sell the American Stinger missiles back to the Americans. He said he wanted Afghanistan to have friendly relations with all its neighbors, with Afghanistan not interfering in their affairs and rejecting their interfering in Afghanistan's affairs. He was happy about Benazir Bhutto's victory in Pakistan's elections, because "she will be realistic." There is no danger to Afghanistan's unity, because the country's partition or break-up would be like a fire that would ignite and also subject the unity of Iran and Pakistan to the danger of break-up. He said that the anarchy in Afghanistan was the reason for the return of the communists to power in the Asian republics.

Here is the text of the interview:

[Al-Husayni] Battles have erupted again in Afghanistan between the forces of Ahmad Shah Mas'ud and those of Golboddin Hekmatyar. What is the reason for these renewed battles?

[Gilani] The battles never stopped. They were going on and may continue, if the situation remains the same in Afghanistan. To stop the battles, the government in Afghanistan must be changed. A Jirga council must be held, including all the Afghan sides—the Mojahedin political leaders, the field leaders, the religious scholars, the tribal elders, and major personalities in Afghanistan. They must gather and elect a president for a transition period.

[Al-Husayni] Hasn't this happened, and hasn't a president been elected for a transition period?

[Gilani] Yes, but the difference this time is that we want the election to be directly under the supervision of the United Nations and the Islamic Conference.

[Al-Husayni] How can such a conference be convened while the battles continue?

[Gilani] They must stop the battles. Before the Jirga is convened, there must be a summons to the Supreme Council, something that must be done by President Borhanoddin Rabbani.

[Al-Husayni] Is President Rabbani able to dominate now and impose his view on Hekmatyar?

[Gilani] If the political leaders of the Mojahedin are asked, and if they meet—with the participation of some other personalities—and make decisions to stop the battles, Hekmatyar will be forced to abide.

[Al-Husayni] What will happen if between now and the end of the month Hekmatyar can occupy Kabul?

[Gilani] It cannot happen. He cannot occupy it.

[Al-Husayni] Why?

[Gilani] I say that he can't because he doesn't have the needed military strength.

[Al-Husayni] But isn't there a Shiite part of Kabul allied with Hekmatyar?

[Gilani] They are in a small part of Kabul. Yes, they are allies of Hekmatyar, but this does not mean they can take Kabul.

[Al-Husayni] Will Kabul always remain threatened by Hekmatyar and Mas'ud?

[Gilani] Certainly the Afghan people cannot accept this situation permanently. Therefore a change must be made in Afghanistan. That is why the Supreme Council of Mojahedin leaders must meet as soon as possible to decide.

[Al-Husayni] Why has the head of the government, Hekmatyar, been unable to enter Kabul peacefully?

[Gilani] Hekmatyar has been unable to enter because the forces of Ahmad Shah Mas'ud are in Kabul. Mas'ud and some leaders of other organizations do not accept his entry into Kabul.

[Al-Husayni] Don't they recognize him as prime minister?

[Gilani] No, they don't recognize him.

[Al-Husayni] Where is the Afghan government located now?

[Gilani] Part of it is located in Kabul, where the head of state is; another part of it is in Shahrasyab, where the prime minister lives.

[Al-Husayni] Is there law and order in this state?

[Gilani] Sadly, there isn't.

[Al-Husayni] Hekmatyar promised to hold elections at the end of October, but he did not call them, and they were not held.

[Gilani] Words are easy; action is hard. One cannot hold free general elections with such an unstable situation.

[Al-Husayni] Do you yourself want to hold general elections?

[Gilani] First the Supreme Council must meet. A special committee must be formed to prepare for the election of the Jirga council—a provisional constitutional advisory council to elect a president for a transition period.

[Al-Husayni] Won't this take place at the end of next March, when the term of Hekmatyar and Rabbani ends?

[Gilani] I believe it is at the end of May. But if the Supreme State Council meets, it can decide to act to change the situation in Afghanistan before the scheduled end of the term of Hekmatyar and Rabbani.

[Al-Husayni] Who will guarantee that Hekmatyar gives up his post?

[Gilani] If the Supreme Council decides, he will have to give up his post.

[Al-Husayni] If he refuses, will there be civil war?

[Gilani] There won't be civil war. If the majority in the council decide to implement something, it must be implemented. So it will not be in his power to refuse.

[Al-Husayni] But doesn't he have weapons and men?

[Gilani] The others have weapons and men, and they form the majority. He can't fight the majority.

[Al-Husayni] Do you think that Rabbani can give up his post?

[Gilani] He must give it up, because his presidential term is ending. He can remain if he is reelected.

[Al-Husayni] If Hekmatyar suddenly resigns, what will happen? Who will fill the vacuum?

[Gilani] Rabbani can name someone else and submit him for approval to the Supreme Council.

[Al-Husayni] People have noted that in Kabul in particular more victims have fallen to the Mojahedin than fell during the Soviet occupation.

[Gilani] That is unfortunately true and does not reflect well on the reputation of the Mojahedin or Afghanistan. We ought to have brought in a stable government able to provide security for people who lived through 14 years of war. Sadly, we failed.

[Al-Husayni] Do you think the military leaders of the Mojahedin fought against the Soviet occupation, or did they fight to take power?

[Gilani] The Afghan people fought against Soviet occupation and communist rule. Some leaders wanted and still want to rule dictatorially, and we are resisting them. There are some organizations among us that have their own political ideas, and they are linked to some political organizations and parties in other countries.

[Al-Husayni] Are you preparing yourself to accept the post of prime minister?

[Gilani] Legally: if the council asks me to accept the premiership, I will accept, but after my terms are implemented.

[Al-Husayni] What are your terms?

[Gilani] That the Jirga take place and that the national army and the security forces be placed under the command of the government and the Defense Ministry.

[Al-Husayni] Where is the Afghan army?

[Gilani] The officers, as well as the soldiers, exist. We shall reassemble them to form the army.

[Al-Husayni] What about weapons?

[Gilani] They must be taken back from the organizations.

[Al-Husayni] Will it be so easy?

[Gilani] If the organizations agree to my terms, it means that they must hand over their weapons.

[Al-Husayni] Do you think an armed militia will agree to give up its strength?

[Gilani] Weapons now exist in the camps located in Kabul, Nangarhar, Paktia, and Kandahar.

[Al-Husayni] But aren't they under the control of the Mojahedin?

[Gilani] Yes, but the Mojahedin are getting everything by way of the Defense Ministry.

[Al-Husayni] But isn't the Defense Ministry still under Mas'ud's command, even though he is no longer defense minister?

[Gilani] Mas'ud took part of the weapons, as did 'Abdol Rashid Dustam and Hekmatyar. However, I think that if a government is formed by the Supreme Council and a majority of the organizations agree to this government, the organization leaders will be prepared to participate in the government and hand over all weapons to the Defense Ministry.

[Al-Husayni] Do you think you can realize your program of unifying the army and imposing security?

[Gilani] I have talked to the concerned parties and will talk to them again on these subjects. If they do not agree to my terms, I will not accept office.

[Al-Husayni] Who is on your side on the ground? Who are your allies?

[Gilani] The majority of the organizations have asked me to be prime minister.

[Al-Husayni] Even Hekmatyar?

[Gilani] Except for him, since he himself is prime minister.

[Al-Husayni] Do you think you will succeed after your predecessors failed?

[Gilani] Success is in God's hand. I will do my utmost.

[Al-Husayni] Is it because there is general agreement on you?

[Gilani] I said it was the majority.

[Al-Husayni] After becoming prime minister, do you want to run for the presidency?

[Gilani] Yes.

[Al-Husayni] And hold the offices simultaneously?

[Gilani] No. When the Jirga assembly meets, I shall run for the presidency. If I gain a majority, I shall give up the premiership and appoint someone else to the post.

[Al-Husayni] Do you think they will agree on you as president?

[Gilani] I don't know, because the Jirga council will be big and enlarged.

[Al-Husayni] How will you protect your life, when you have no armed strength on the ground?

[Gilani] The strength exists.

[Al-Husayni] But it isn't effective?

[Gilani] I fought the atheistic communists; and when the occupation ended, I refused to kill my brother Muslim in Afghanistan. Perhaps the only reason why the West ignores my strength is that I refused to participate in killing the Afghan people. Many attempts were made to destroy my organization. All of them failed because I have the support of the people.

[Al-Husayni] What makes you feel that it is in Afghanistan's interest that you be prime minister?

[Gilani] Because I can alleviate the problems, and because the majority of the Afghan people are on my side.

[Al-Husayni] When you become prime minister, will you call for general elections?

[Gilani] Holding elections is one of my preconditions. If the Supreme Council rejects this condition, I will not accept the post.

[Al-Husayni] Have you discussed this condition with anyone?

[Gilani] I have discussed it with everyone, and they have agreed.

[Al-Husayni] Will you now return to Afghanistan to become prime minister?

[Gilani] No. I will return to Afghanistan to do my utmost to alleviate the fighting and then to work for holding a Supreme Council session. If Rabbani proposes to the council members that I be prime minister and the members accept my program, I will then become prime minister.

[Al-Husayni] I ask you again: Do you want the Supreme Council to meet before the end of Hekmatyar's term as prime minister?

[Gilani] No, because the Supreme Council is not tied to a schedule. Hekmatyar became prime minister after the Islamabad agreement and after the Jalalabad agreement. Both at Jalalabad and at Islamabad there was an agreement to form a Supreme Council from the nine organization heads who form its permanent members. Rabbani should ask us to meet and make the decision. If the Supreme Council thinks that Hekmatyar is incapable of governing, it has the right to dismiss him from his post.

[Al-Husayni] How is life outside the city of Kabul?

[Gilani] There is stability in some provinces, such as Herat, Jalalabad, Nangarhar, and Mazar-e Sharif. There isn't full security in other provinces, but the main problem is in Kabul.

[Al-Husayni] When you become prime minister, do you think you will be able to visit all the provinces in Afghanistan?

[Gilani] God willing, because that is what I intend.

[Al-Husayni] After the Soviet occupation ended, did you visit all of Afghanistan?

[Gilani] I visited some of the provinces.

[Al-Husayni] The capital, Kabul, is divided in half. Do you think you can unify it?

[Gilani] God willing! I can now visit any area in Kabul.

[Al-Husayni] Are you optimistic about Afghanistan's future?

[Gilani] I have to picture myself as optimistic; that is my duty. There are problems, but we shall solve them.

[Al-Husayni] How are your relations with King Zaher Shah?

[Gilani] Very good. I respect him greatly and shall visit him in two days.

[Al-Husayni] Why do you think the United States abandoned its support for Hekmatyar?

[Gilani] The United States did not support Hekmatyar. It supported the cause. Sadly, it was the rulers of Pakistan who provided great support for Hekmatyar.

[Al-Husayni] What about the American intelligence agency?

[Gilani] It supported him through the Pakistani intelligence apparatus, which supported Hekmatyar and some of the extremist organizations. The apparatus refused to allow the moderate organizations to have sufficient strength.

[Al-Husayni] Why?

[Gilani] Because the extremist organizations were set up in Pakistan in the time of President Zia-ul-Haq, who wanted them to be clients of Pakistan. We do not want to be anyone's clients—either of the Soviets or of Pakistan. We want Afghanistan to remain neutral and to have good relations with all states, especially neighbors such as Pakistan, Iran, the Islamic states, and the non-Islamic states. We do not want to be hostile to anyone.

[Al-Husayni] Is it true that you have expressed your willingness to sell the Stinger missiles back to the Americans?

[Gilani] I? Where are the missiles for me to sell? And if the Americans gave us the missiles, how can we sell them back to them?

[Al-Husayni] Will you keep them?

[Gilani] If we have them, we shall turn them over to the defense ministry.

[Al-Husayni] I am talking about the missiles that all the Afghan organizations possess.

[Gilani] This is a matter for governments to decide among themselves.

[Al-Husayni] Will you sell them if you become prime minister?

[Gilani] I will study the subject when I assume the premiership and consult with the members of the government.

[Al-Husayni] If you are made ruler, will you bestow a general pardon?

[Gilani] We have already proclaimed general pardon.

[Al-Husayni] Even for Najibollah?

[Gilani] Yes.

[Al-Husayni] Where is he now?

[Gilani] In Kabul.

[Al-Husayni] What is he doing?

[Gilani] He is living in the United Nations office.

[Al-Husayni] Then he isn't free?

[Gilani] Correct, he isn't free.

[Al-Husayni] Then how have you pardoned him?

[Gilani] We have not killed him and have not put him in prison.

[Al-Husayni] Is there anyone who wants to kill him?

[Gilani] I don't think so. They would have killed him, had they wanted to.

[Al-Husayni] Will you allow him to leave Afghanistan?

[Gilani] If I become prime minister, I shall study the matter—in other words, I shall study the reason for preventing him from leaving.

[Al-Husayni] Some say that with the disintegration of the Soviet Union and the collapse of communism, Afghanistan has lost its importance.

[Gilani] I do not think Afghanistan has lost its importance. It is situated in a geographical location linking the five newly independent Asian republics with India, Pakistan, and some of the Arab states.

It was a strategic meeting point. It has retained its strategic position and has become an important economic and commercial meeting point.

If a stable, neutral government is not established in Afghanistan, the country will continue to constitute a danger to the Asian republics.

[Al-Husayni] Don't you think that the Mojahedin leaders divided Afghanistan among themselves, even in relations with other countries? Dustam, for example, opened offices for his organization in Tehran, Tashkent, Ashgabat, and Ankara. Esma'il Agha has offices in Tehran and Mashhad. Mas'ud is using the former Afghan embassies for his movement.

[Gilani] That is why I said there must be a strong, stable government in Afghanistan to resolve all these problems. Another of my conditions is closing the overseas offices, with diplomatic representation remaining a matter for the state.

[Al-Husayni] Is there a danger that Afghanistan will be divided?

[Gilani] There is a danger, but I do not think anyone will succeed. Nevertheless, there must be a government to impose stability in Afghanistan, because Russia, for example, is interfering in the affairs of the Asian Islamic republics using the anarchy in Afghanistan as a pretext. If Afghanistan continues to suffer from instability, no one knows how matters will end. It is therefore essential that Afghanistan have a stable government so that we can quash these pretexts, so that the Asian republics can become truly independent states not under the influence of others.

[Al-Husayni] Yet aren't you in Afghanistan supporting the rebels in Tashkent and opening the door to them?

[Gilani] We opened the door for the communists to return and rule the Islamic republics. Had we allowed the Afghan people the right to determine their own destiny, the communists would not have returned.

[Al-Husayni] Did you feel pleased by Benazir Bhutto's victory in Pakistan and the defeat of Nawaz Sharif and Judge Husayn Ahmad?

[Gilani] As I said, we do not interfere in the internal affairs of states. We want very good relations with any government that comes to be in Pakistan.

[Al-Husayni] Will they be good because she is against Hekmatyar?

[Gilani] I do not link good relations with her position on Hekmatyar. But she has to be realistic. Unfortunately, Judge Husayn Ahmad was the reason for the disputes in Afghanistan. He supported some of the extremist organizations because of his great influence on Zia-ul-Haq and others at that time.

[Al-Husayni] Do you think he intended to establish an extension for him from Pakistan to Afghanistan?

[Gilani] That was more or less his goal.

[Al-Husayni] Do you think there is still a strong rivalry between Iran and Pakistan, in particular, over Afghanistan?

[Gilani] Over what are they rivals? I ask all states to have good relations with Afghanistan. We do not interfere in their affairs, and they do not interfere in ours.

[Al-Husayni] If conditions in Afghanistan remain the same, the countries may intervene to protect themselves against problems spreading to them.

[Gilani] I think that would be hard to happen. It would be better for no country to interfere in our affairs.

[Al-Husayni] Is there no danger that the states bordering Afghanistan will divide up your country?

[Gilani] If that is what the neighboring states want, they will also put themselves in danger of being divided, for the makeup of Afghanistan is exactly like that of Pakistan and Iran. The groups that live in Afghanistan also live in Pakistan and Iran. In Iran, for example, there are Turkmen, Tajiks, Baluchis, Kurds, and Arabs, and they would inevitably split off. In Pakistan there are Baluchis, Sindis, Punjabis, and Pashtuns. They too would inevitably split off. Is anyone ready to kindle such a flame that will spread to many countries?

[Al-Husayni] If you become prime minister and then president, do you think you will be able to regain the world's interest in Afghanistan?

[Gilani] I do not say that I am able, but I will do my utmost and try to get support from everyone.

[Al-Husayni] Why has the world lost interest in Afghanistan?

[Gilani] Who takes an interest in problems?

[Al-Husayni] Who is intervening to inflame problems?

[Gilani] Some of the extremists inside and outside Afghanistan—everyone who flees from democracy and freedom.

[Al-Husayni] Are you thinking of giving women a role in your government?

[Gilani] I will make an effort to give rights to women in accordance with Islamic laws. Our religion has given rights to women. We are Muslims and must continue on the same path.

[Al-Husayni] Do you think you will find acceptance from the states bordering Afghanistan?

[Gilani] What do these states have to do with our affairs?

[Al-Husayni] They could cause you problems if they are not in agreement.

[Gilani] I am working for Afghanistan, not for the other states.

[Al-Husayni] Have you visited Iran and Pakistan recently?

[Gilani] I visit Pakistan constantly. It is on our route. We lived there for a long time.

[Al-Husayni] Do you intend to visit the United States?

[Gilani] If need be.

Bangladesh

Awami Leader's China Visit Termed Significant

BK1811140893 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 14 Nov 93 p 1

[By a special correspondent]

[Text] The Chinese Embassy in Bangladesh termed the on-going visit of Awami League Chief and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament, Sheikh Hasina to Beijing as important "to further promote and strengthen the friendly relations between the people of China and Bangladesh."

In a written reply to a question the spokesman of the Chinese Embassy said "we hope that the visit will help improve the mutual understanding and relationship between the central committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and Bangladesh Awami League". Although the Chinese Embassy prefers to bill the invitation to Sheikh Hasina as a normal gesture of the CPC, the Embassy did not fail to express its interest and enthusiasm about the visit of the Leader of Awami League, the largest opposition party in Bangladesh.

Asked if the CPC and the Chinese government had been thinking to reassess their relationship with different political parties in Bangladesh, the Chinese Embassy spokesman said "in order to increase understanding, strengthen friendship and promote the world peace, CPC has established relations, contacts and exchanges with the political parties of many countries around the world including socialist parties and political organisations in the Third World on the basis of the four principles—independence, complete equality, mutual respect and non-interference in each others internal affairs."

Replying to a question whether the invitation to the Awami League Chief reflected any major change in China's policy towards Bangladesh, the spokesman said "one of the basic principles of our foreign policy is to promote and strengthen friendly relations with our neighbouring countries. We have been enjoying deep friendship and close cooperation between our two governments and peoples. Further promotion and strengthening of the existing friendship and cooperation is the Chinese government's unswerving policy. We believe Sino-Bangladesh cooperation and friendship in all fields will be surely strengthened further through the consistent efforts between our two governments and the people."

The spokesman declined to make any comment whether China's invitation to Sheikh Hasina would annoy the ruling party BNP [Bangladesh Nationalist Party]. He also evaded a question whether China invited Sheikh Hasina foreseeing Awami League's possibility of coming to power in the next Parliament election.

Meanwhile, the political observers and analysts here considered Sheikh Hasina's first visit to China as significant. They observed that the CPC's invitation to Sheikh Hasina broke the stalemate in the attitude of the CPC to Awami League with whom China had virtually no relations during the last 22 years since the liberation of Bangladesh in 1971.

When asked to comment on Sheikh Hasina's visit, a leading figure in the Five-Party Alliance and General Secretary of Workers Party Mr. Rashed Khan Menon, MP said "it is good."

The President of the Combined Cultural Alliance and a veteran China watcher, Mr. Faiz Ahmed said "it is politically significant that a delegation led by Awami League Chief is now visiting China." He observed that her China visit would yield "good dividend" to her party in the domestic politics. He believed that the CPC's invitation to the Awami League Chief reflected China's future economic and foreign policy perspectives.

Awami League Chief and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina's 10-day visit to China began on November 6 at the invitation of the International Liaison Department of the central committee of the Communist Party of China. Her entourage includes

Awami League Presidium Member Mr. Abdus Samad Azad—former Foreign Minister of the Awami League Government before 1975 and the sitting Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Parliament; a career diplomat Mr. S.A.M.S. Kibria—former Foreign Secretary and the former Executive Director of important UN Agency ESCAP who is an advisor to the Awami League Chief on foreign policy; and Mr. Abul Hasan Chowdhury, Awami League MP and the son of a former president of Bangladesh Justice Abu Sayeed Chowdhury.

India

Accord Signed on Iran-India Gas Pipeline Study

BK1811130493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Text] India and Iran have signed a memorandum of understanding [MOU] to undertake the prefeasibility study for a gas pipeline from Iran to India. The MOU was signed in New Delhi by the minister of petroleum and natural gas, Captain Satish Sharma, and his Iranian counterpart. Talking to newsmen, both the ministers said the study will decide the route of the pipeline and the nature of finances required. The pipeline will supply 50 million cubic meters of natural gas daily to India and is estimated to cost about $4 billion.

Article Views Country's Nuclear Policy

BK1811091793 Delhi INDIAN DEFENCE REVIEW in English Oct 93 pp 34-39

[By Dr H K Srivastava, Ph.D.: "Nuclear India"]

[Text] It was in May 1974 that India exploded a nuclear device. India certainly joined the exclusive 'nuclear club' but without realizing that it was also entering a 'Crystal Maze' of unknown ways. Since then India has been under Western pressures about its nuclear program and its peaceful nuclear policy (PNP), neither of which has been accepted by the West.

The Annual Defence Report 1984-85, for the first time, reflected India's concern about the nuclear factor in the calculations of the Indian security. Since then, the nation has been repeatedly assured that India was alive to the nuclear dimension in relation to its security and that it would acquire the requisite capabilities to meet any eventuality. In other words, the nation was assured that it would never face an asymmetrical nuclear situation, nor would it be subjected to a nuclear blackmail. These assurances 'conditioned' the people of India to accept, in 1984, words of Mr Subrahmanyam, "without excitement and panic" the growing Pakistani nuclear program. First it was Mrs. Gandhi who, on 22 March 1984, declared that "Pakistan's effort to assemble a nuclear weapon does not however mean that Pakistan is ahead of India in atomic development." Later, the then Defence Minister, Mr K C Pant, on April 23, 1988, stated in the Lok Sabha that there was no "vulnerable window" in the country's defence preparedness and the Indian defence forces would not find themselves at a disadvantage in the event of a nuclear attack from Pakistan. In its June 1990 issue, the magazine, India Today, quoted Mr. V P Singh that, "Our scientists would not be wanting", and Dr Raja Ramannathat, "India would rise to the occasion". Gen Sundarji, ex-Chief of Army Staff, in his column in India Today, also wrote about "capacity deterrent" giving an impression that India was prepared to face a nuclear war, if it was forced upon it. As late as April 30, 1993, Air Chief Marshal, N C Suri, with an unequivocal determination certified that India had a "total preparedness to face any eventuality".

In the last nine and a half years, the nuclear debate in India was, however, confined to only those who had both free access to information and the print media. It, therefore, continued, since 1984, on bomb-in-the-basement presumption without realizing (or purposely ignoring) that India had not even touched the 'first base' in nuclear war making capability, irrespective of its actual position with regard to nuclear weapons.

The first confutation of the nuclear capability syndrome came in the wake of Gen VN Sharma's article, 'India's Security Environment, in The USI [expansion unknown] journal that exposed India's neutered nuclear war making capability which had emasculated India for almost 20 years.

This paper seeks to analyse the revelations made by Gen Sharma, ex-Chief of the Army Staff, about India's nuclear capability and, in turn, the Indo-Pakistan relations in the '90s as a sequel to the nuclear policy alleged to be built by India around this capability. Thereafter the dilemma India is currently facing over the NPT [Non-proliferation Treaty], and the alternatives available to it to shake off pressures from Nuclear Weapon States (NWS) will be touched upon.

Gen Sharma wrote, "With the declared Pakistani bomb, nuclear weapon asymmetry has developed across our land borders in the plains, forcing India to face a dilemma for future policy goals. Our challenging environment over the last three years, lack of strategic perceptions and our political infancy place us in a poor position to face this challenge, while we endlessly debate whether we should or should not 'go nuclear,'.... The claim that India already has the bomb, made by international strategists and Pakistani propaganda, is not backed by any clear information of such a development."

Gen Sharma's final censure comes as a denouncement. He wrote that ".... One can only stress the crying need for informed and determined political leadership and revamping the methods of bureaucratic functioning".

Firstly, it is abundantly clear that whatever may be the impression or the faith amongst India-watchers the world over about India's capability to wage a nuclear war, or whatever assurances the earlier prime ministers, defence minister, chiefs of staff, and others had publicly given, they were like the proverbial Indian rope trick.

Everybody thought that Indians play the trick but no one had seen it being played. The worst is that our servicemen were knowingly assured that they would never face an enemy under adverse and asymmetrical nuclear war scenario, or weapon disabilities when India had not even progressed towards the 'first base' of technical capability. The so-called active "capability deterrent" of Gen Sundarji, or the "recessed deterrent" of Jasjit Singh, or the April 30, 1993, assurance by the Air Chief Marshal Suri at Bangalore about "total preparedness to face any eventuality" are sustained and propped by the American thinkers like 'Carnegie Group', and Pakistani propaganda. One, therefore, can not but harbour a fear that in future also India will continue to sustain the impressions about its nuclear probable capabilities, yet, in fact suffer a persisting nuclear asymmetry.

The only country that did not deceive itself about the nuclear option was Pakistan. The insistence of India that it had not weaponised its nuclear capabilities, made Pakistan test India through bit-by-bit divulgence of its nuclear capabilities. In 1989, the Pakistani Ambassador to the USA confirmed Pakistani capability to make the bomb. Then in 1991, Ms Benazir Bhutto admitted of the existence of the bomb. In between small fries threw hints here and there. When on ground no Indian activity was discernible, Pakistan became confident of the apparent hollowness of India's nuclear deterrence. Without publicly downgrading and laughing at India's nuclear capability, or exposing/exploiting the hollowness of India's nuclear deterrence, and without boasting of its own nuclear progress, Pakistan was smart enough to quietly accelerate its nuclear program leaving India in that asymmetrical situation where, one fears now, even if India makes a move for technical preparation, it would be exposed. What Mr Subrahmanyam had predicted in 1984, and Gen Vas had pointed out in 1985 have proved true.

The Indian armed forces have been systematically fed on the 'finest army' syndrome and made to believe of its capabilities to take up the toughest challenge and be ready to face any eventuality. Now, perhaps for the first time the officer corps will start wondering if the ground reality about their capability is true. Following the officers will be the other ranks who will become aware of the true state of India's nuclear weapon capabilities through word of mouth or their commanders. Informations adversely affecting the safety of military personnel spread at the fastest in the services. One should not forget 1857, when inspite of poor communications, rumours about the use of cow's fat on bullets spread like a wild fire. The snow-balling impact on men of the awareness of the current state of the nuclear ground situation, their anger for being duped for so long by their own chiefs, their distrust and concern over governmental and military paralysis to redress the situation, and an infusion in them of a feeling of helplessness about the overall state of affairs, will cause a severe collective impact on their morale. Military history abounds in examples how fear snowballs into a simmering discontent in military men and ultimately explodes into a military rebellion. One can only pray that while a remedial action on a warfooting is initiated and completed, the fear of any snowballing effect in our service personnel does remain a distant fear.

Mr Subrahmanyam's 1984 observation that because of assurances over nuclear capability repeated frequently, the Indian people have become conditioned to accept "without excitement or panic" the growing nuclear capability of Pakistan. Gen Sharma's article strengthens the suspicion that the Indian PNP and the nuclear abstinence are two major contributory factors in transforming Pakistan's behaviour. An echo of these attitudes can be found in Subrahmanyam's 1984 exceptionally remarkable clairvoyance.

In 1990s, two scenarios in Indo-Pakistan relations prominently surfaced. One, Pakistan's deliberate demonstration of a hard intransigent attitude in respect of Kashmir, the treatment meted out to Indian diplomats in Pakistan, and Pakistani diplomats breaching protocol on Indian soil. The other aspect relates to, piece by piece, leaking Pakistan's progress in its nuclear weapon programme. As Pakistan progressively moved to culmination of its nuclear weaponisation programme, and as it first became confident and then assured that India lacked the basic technical capability to counteract and escalate an Indo-Pakistani conflict to nuclear level, the entire behaviour of its diplomats, politicians and bureaucrats changed in their treatment of the Indian personnel and bilateral relations. Pakistan became emboldened enough to snipe at Indian diplomats and Indian policies on trumped up grounds. Their anti-Indian stance in any and every international fora gained vigour that was not visible in the pre-90s era. Pakistan's perceptions of its upperhand in nuclear war making capabilities (evidence of which can be found in the statement of the former President of Pakistan, Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan), lack of fear of India's conventional weapon superiority, and asymmetrically disadvantaged India in the field of nuclear weaponary made Pakistan feel that India could now only croak and bleat to attract international attention but dare not cross swords with it for fear of escalation conflictual situations to nuclear level [sentence as published]. Pakistan now feels that it has arrested in mid-track Indian conventional might through its nuclear war making capability. Gen (Retd) Mirza Aslam Beg's statement bears testimony to this Pakistani perception. Thus, a supercilious and condescending attitude of Pakistan can be seen in the breach of the diplomatic protocol by Pakistani High Commissioner in India, in his open criticism of Indian ministers, making outspoken comments on the domestic affairs of India, and even refusing to meet any one below foreign secretary of India. In the '90s, Pakistani agencies have used their agents in India for serial bombing and instigating communal riots with impunity. Admission of the existence of a nuclear bomb in early 1991 and unabated support to Kashmiri militants point to boosted morale on account of its nuclear capability. Neither the $238 million US aid cut in fiscal year 1990-91, nor the

fear of Pakistan hovering on the brink of being termed a "terrorist state" diminished its support to subversive acts against India. The nuclear smugness that Pakistan feels today can be traced from 1990-91 to this day and the responsibility of creating this complex in Pakistan rests on the self-proclaimed nuclear abstinence by India. On the other hand, Pakistan by pushing undauntingly its nuclear and Kashmir policies has achieved its twin aims. Firstly, its covert nuclear weapon capability restricted any conventional weapon response by India against stepped up Kashmiri militancy abetted by Pakistan. It also got Kashmir recognised as a disputed territory by the USA thus placing India on the defensive on human rights issue. Secondly, it has placed India on the horns of a dilemma in respect of the American relentless pursuit of 'cap,' 'reduce,' and 'eliminate' nuclear weapons. India can neither change its stand on NPT, nor can cash in on the nuclear 'option' at this stage.

The best advantage that India derived by persisting in its nuclear abstinence, in spite of stinging domestic criticism was two decades worth of time to gain nuclear expertise and demonstrated originality in nuclear research which has shaken the Americans and other NWS. At the same time, the American stance over NPT has been blunted by the Indian position over NPT without drawing flak or ire of NWS and without forcing them to physically intervene or economically strangulate India. In this respect, Indian politicians and foreign office bureaucrats have proved themselves smarter than the rest of the Indian N-option analysts.

A stage has now been reached where India has to find a way out to escape the American pressure in the coming two years. The cryogenic engine episode has proved America's international clout and India's lack of it. With the UN Security Council virtually under the American 'eagle's' claws, the international community is unable to oppose American interventions and the threat of use of its military might to snuff out opposition to its way of thinking. The American morale is, therefore at the top. Moreover, countries like Japan and Singapore have pleaded for the continued American presence in the Pacific Region for the purpose of maintaining stability in South East Asia. The Clinton Administration has therefore, declared its intention to stay-put in the region.

Under this international environment and the American locus standi in it, India has limited openings and alternatives, namely, (a) Fight it out economically and politically, (b) Endeavour to convert Asian nuclear states into a bloc, (c) Link up with China, (d) Seek positioning of the American nuclear force detachment, and (e) Cool down America by touching the psyche of Americans.

India can fight out the American and the First World pressures if NPT amendment is totally ruled out by the USA and other NWS. There will be severe economic and political repercussions. America will go out of its way to strangulate India economically and politically by influencing international financial institutions, exert political pressures, and may manoeuver India in embarrassing international political clefts. However in a typically American way, the initial angry effusion will subside. The region extending from Syria to Singapore is the heart of American vital interests and India has a critically vital geostrategic location within it. Therefore, like China, after a strained period, America itself will come around and find alternatives. So long as India plays the game diplomatically, judiciously, and without change of its legitimate stand and security interests, both the economic and political damages inflicted on India in the next two years will not be unbearable. By all counts, the Indian masses, if carefully prepared by our leaders, will not mind the sacrifices provided they are taken into confidence.

That Pakistan does not take advantage of India under severe coercion, it is essential that India accelerates the game of ambiguity by readopting and repractising that kind of secrecy, deception, and camouflaging that did not let the 'eagle' or the 'bear' detect its nuclear intention in early 70s. By 1995 India has to introduce in its military training schedules and exercises such training that may enable its forces to become adept in all aspects of technical capabilities to wage anuclear war. This would checkmate Pakistani designs and make it realise the futility of any military adventure under a puffed-up ego built around its nuclear capability. The design and practices of new nuclear war games cannot become a contentious issue with NWS, nor can they prompt America to invoke UN Article 51 (providing for the exercise of self-defence), or the UN Security Council Resolution number 688 (providing for intervention on the pretext of humanitarian grounds). If India does not become its own trumpeter,as has lately become a rampant practice in the Indian military, the world would never come to know about our new nuclear war games and training practices. When we could not let the world know about our 'bomb' status for 20 years in spite of all the tricks in investigative and surveillance techniques, one cannot visualise India blowing away its new efforts to gain nuclear war fighting expertise through sheer bravado.

By and large this alternative is feasible. Except for gaining new nuclear war fighting expertise, which can not be avoided now at any cost, it would be senseless to come under coercive diplomatic pressures.

Alvin Toffler and Heidi Toffler have indirectly given India its maximum exploitative chance for a new dimension to nuclear proliferation. They have drawn attention to a giant nuclear arc on the periphery of Asia comprising North Korea, Russia, China, India, Pakistan, and extending into CIS, like Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and others. The Tofflers have rightly pointed out that in the Post-Cold War period nowhere else such a vast nuclear encirclement is seen. In this arc China is a major international player. It can swing the nuclear scales against America without creating a war psychosis. India, to date, has behaved with great maturity, living up to its professed principles. However national security interests are neither served nor saved by principles alone.

Without any pretensions, or even diplomatic urbanity, America has taught this lesson to India and to the developing countries. Even a tiny bit of interest by India towards consolidation of this Asian nuclear arc into a block will greatly accelerate the snowballing process and will act as a booster to Chinese efforts, if they so decide at any time in future. America, if it continues with its unrestricted non- proliferation zealotry, will in time push countries like India towards a new politico-nuclear alignment—an alignment which will be impossible for America, short of a World War, to intimidate militarily and economically, nor will it be possible for America to buy out the nuclearized and money-starved CIS.

So far as India is concerned, it will not be in its interest in the long run to foresake its democratic principles (unless coerced beyond tolerance) and take an alternative hard non-centrist political stance. This alternative, however, is there, preferably not to be adopted . Yet, at the same time, it will be unwise for India, not to openly cultivate for many other good reasons, its links with states comprising the Asian nuclear arc.

The Sino-Indian relations have thawed to an extent that the two countries are now exchanging technological expertise and have entered into participative entrepreneurship, relegating irritants for future resolution. The next obvious leap is military-economic linkage. China is not unaware of the implications of the Asian nuclear arc and what fruits it can pluck at an appropriate time. It is also aware of the growing Japan, South Korea, Singapore, and America link ups, as well as of the American insistence over non- proliferation and the possibility of that fanaticism directed towards it at some point of time before 1995. The present Indian stand on NPT is not favourable to China or to any NWS, but this may not last if India comes under severe coercion. As the Chinese economy grows stronger and its military technology modernisation endeavours mature, the US influence will get proportionately reduced. Moreover, hook-up of American private firms in the Chinese economy will be so deep in a few years that the US Administration will find itself stymied in arriving at a vital adverse decision against China, except at a colossal economic loss.

The growing Sino-India economic relations on the one hand, and on the other, the Sino-US economic linkage will place China in a commanding position to manipulate both the democracies to its advantage. If India gets kicked by the Americans over NPT, or America keeps on intervening in Indian economic and hitech deals, the loss to American influence will be greater than to India. India and China are two vast masses of humanity which have demonstrated potentials to grow technologically, economically and politically .

One plausible and viable alternative for India and America both could be to enter into an agreement for positioning American nuclear detachments in India. Just as South East Asian states have sought continued American presence in the Asia Pacific Region, it is worth considering a similar presence of a small American nuclear detachment on the subcontinent. In a few GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] states one does find such detachments positioned. In "A Message from Asia to President Clinton" Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, ex-Prime Minister of Japan, and Mr Lee Kuan Yew, ex-Prime Minister of Singapore, have forcefully argued how presence of the US forces will protect the Asia Pacific Region from destabilisation in future. If one or two small but potent nuclear force detachments from America are positioned on Indian soil, it will serve a dual purpose.

One, it will be a guarantee to non-nuclear India against nuclear China and the future Asian nuclear alignment that may crop up. Secondly, it will not be necessary for India to exercise its 'option' and, at the same time, India will not have to suffer the risks involved in seeking alternatives. The impact on Pakistani nuclear smugness, neutralisation of effects on India by the Pakistani-Chinese axis, and a natural restraining influence on CIS are obvious other gains for India. One can visualise a barrage of emotional rhetoric and non-strategic thinkers spewing forth their anger on this suggestion. However, strategic advantages outweigh the so-called soiling of Indian sovereignty arguments. One has only to look at Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Philippines and Singapore in the East, and GCC states in the West to convince oneself about the advantages.

To cool America over its NPT obduracy, India has to adopt a new approach. Mr Jagdish R Hiremath, India's Representative on the Board of Governors of the IAEA [Indian Atomic Energy Authority] from 1985 to 1989, in 1992, and Mr C Uday Bhaskar, a defence analyst, in 1993[2], have suggested that India pursue an aggressive policy to project its PNP, and approach the American public and congressmen, respectively. India does need to become aggressive in its approach. First, it should flood the American media playing on democratic India sandwiched between nuclear states on its North-West and North- East. It must impact the American psyche and invigorate it by projecting how even in the worst Cold War era did India quietly let America place sensitive devices on its soil somewhere in the North- East; how it did not consciously come in the way of US policy of containment, the Russo-Indian Friendship Treaty notwithstanding; and how it did permit US war planes use its airfields for refuelling during the recent Gulf War. The Indian Government can use many other examples and episodes which it would be having in its lockers to influence the American citizenry. The loudest orchestration, no doubt, should be on India with a proven track record and as the only country on the giant Asian nuclear arc upon which America can bank upon. Like Israel in the Middle East, India in Asia is the only country which is for the future vital interests of America beyond 1995. It cannot be made a non entity, or be pushed into non-nuclear state; nor can it be denuclearised for the American NPT mind set. India should get to technical 'first base' to make a play for projecting its strategic location, its usefulness to America as a nuclear counterbalance to many nuclear states (with little love lost for

America) on the nuclear arc, as well as a staging area to the USA against any future nuclear bloc formation amongst the Asian nuclear states. The economic links with the USA (touching approximately $118.413 million, involving till May 29, 1993, 75 projects) is another field to impress upon. If the economic theme is projected attractively, it may prove even more useful than the strategic and political approach.

India must realise that the American administration in its national interest, makes demons or gods out of any situation and accordingly visualises, propagates, and blows up the self-perceived truth to its countrymen through modern media means. Mr. Strobe Talbott had written an excellent essay during the Gulf war titled, "The Search for Super villians", wherein he has bared this American peculiarity. Moreover, for economic gains, America bends and recasts (recall its "Dollar Diplomacy" of the early 20th century, and current efforts to buy out Russian space industry, and, like Belarus, 23 to purchase other CIS) all the rules of the game. At the same time, American citizenry is a very powerful body which shapes American policies. Through modern communication technologies and professional lobbying in a scientific, coherent, and persuasive manner, this citizenry is required to be convinced of India's intent and purpose and its place in serving the vital interests of America). Once the Americans are aware of the usefulness of india in safeguarding the vital interests of America in and of the 21st century and how a shortsighted approach is likely to hurt America's long term gains and in the process losing Indian goodwill, it is certain that die-hard non-proliferationists, NPT and other nuclear issues will get smothered in due course of time—most probably by Americans themselves.

Breaking into American media will be a herculean task needing application of mind, energy, and finances, in addition to giving up the 'big-brother,' and 'know-all' mentality of the Indian bureaucrats in and outside India. Delhi and not its Washington-based bureaucrats, have to control and command this project, if initiated. One will need to counter efforts of anti-India bodies in the USA who will go all out to neutralise our efforts.

Secondly, India has to apply persuasive diplomacy to covince American Congressmen, Senators, and the Clinton Administration the likely damage American coercion will have on India, Indo-American politico-economic relations, and on the pro-American Indian polity. Through smaller fries India can and must sow the seeds of doubts amongst the law makers on the danger of India seeking alternative alignment(s) to face the American coercive diplomacy. such innuendos have become a function of practical diplomacy. By working hard hand-in-glove with professional lobyyists of Washington, Indian diplomats can certainly make a dent in the American fixation of thought over NPT and India. This alternative is perhaps the least difficult and the best result oriented one for India to adopt immediately for quick returns.

As 1995 draws nearer, India will be further pressurised over NPT. To diminish the heat and take the Americans off its back, so to say, India has to adopt an aggressive but persuasive nuclear policy to show the Americans and the Western NWS their short-sightedness about pressures on India, and the gains in the 21st century by accommodating India on "as-is-where-is-basis," or in a modified NPT regime. Meanwhile India must take full advantage of the two-year period available to it before 1995 arrives in acquiring technical expertise in all those aspects essential for nuclear war fighting through simulated exercises in nuclear warfare techniques. India need not reorganise or redeploy its forces on ground at this point of time.

On another plane, to contain the likely bickering within its forces over nuclear unpreparedness, India must strive to reconvince its servicemen that the country is determined not to let them face any asymmetrical weapon situation, or an adverse war scenario, conventional or nuclear. And nothing could be a better proof than demonstration of resolve by introducing nuclear war fighting exercises and training. This will redeem the pledges given by the Indian elite and the three Service Chiefs mentioned earlier.

Iran

Mohtashami Stresses 'Resistance' to U.S.

NC1811162093 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 3 Nov 93 p 2

["Text" of address by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi at Tehran University on 4 November]

[Text] Fourteen years have elapsed since the occupation of the U.S. den of espionage at the hands of the zealous youth and the severance of relations with the criminal United States, but now we are witnessing a most sorrowful and black phenomenon in the history of the Islamic Revolution in Iran.

Today, we perceive a blackened and unexpected page in the dossier of the government and the Interior Ministry. Today, the question arises—for the Muslim and revolutionary nation of Iran and the true pioneers of the "second revolution," who are enamored of the independence, freedom, and territorial integrity of the country—why should we have this gathering near the door of the university? What crime have these students committed that the interior minister has not given them permission to stage a march and gathering against the United States? Were the Islamic Students Association [Tahkim-e Vahdat] and other Islamic associations not endorsed by the imam (may God be pleased with him)? Or has the government's policy changed with regard to the United States?

If the government's policy is still based on the principles of the revolution compiled by its founder, the late imam,

and endorsed by the great leader, and accepted by the government, why are we sitting here today? Why are we deprived of our rights? This policy that has been announced and implemented by the interior minister today is either an innovation on his part or has been made by the government and the president. According to all political and knowledgeable analysts, this policy is aimed at eliciting the favor of the West and the United States.

Keeping the people from adopting a political stand in the country is the greatest wish of the enemies of the Islamic revolution. Giving political issues an official bias and destroying national policies and the nation are among the U.S. objectives, following the demise of the imam. The art of the late imam was to acquaint the bazaar merchants and students with politics and to instruct them in international and political issues and to make them comprehend that they should be the decision-makers in the future. Today, we clearly see trends that are trying to depoliticize students.

This repulsive and ill-omened phenomenon that is going on today has changed my line of thinking and speech. If our program, policy, and trends which have taken shape since the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran continues—as it has continued more or less until this year, even after the demise of his eminence, the imam—the Western governments would not have been able to extend their domination in Iran and over the various departments.

Ever since the government of Hashemi-Rafsanjani was established, one of the issues that was propounded was that the trend of depoliticizing should reign over the country. This program was one of the objectives of economic development that carried the slogan saying that government control should be removed and the economic affairs should be administered by the people. How far have the people benefited from this policy? Has this policy not been to the advantage of the capitalists and to the detriment of the deprived people one hundred percent?

This is due to the erroneous economic policy of the government. If we are to resolve the people's problems, the policy needs to have a popular bias. When the policies for the attainment of the objectives of development become government oriented, political rights and freedoms become restricted. Today, we are witnessing a shattering blow being dealt to the revolutionary society of Iran, as the inalienable rights of a society, of a community—which had been endorsed by the imam—are being jeopardized.

To whose benefit is all this? Certainly this is geared to objectives such as relations with the United States. When a minister or a cabinet acts in a manner which contravenes all the interests of the revolution and the Islamic Republic of Iran, it is natural that the minister should either resign or his cabinet be interpellated. With the implementation of such policies, is there any guarantee for the continuation of the revolution and the Islamic Republic of Iran? This is only possible when the people and the revolutionary students are on the scene. If the nation and the university are isolated, who is going to defend this system? Are you going to isolate the fervent revolutionary from the university? The United States does not fear the Iranian Government. It dreads the Iranian Government backed by an aware and revolutionary population of 60 million.

How can a few unknown and some well-known individuals permit themselves to thwart this pure Islamic movement? Those who believe that the forces in the university and the basijis [mobilization organizations] have become disenchanted by this movement are laboring under a delusion. The United States is very eager to have this dam fragmented and to forge relations with Iran. The United States has had to relinquish this fiefdom and its people for the past 14 years and the Islamic revolution has shattered the myth of the grandeur and greatness of the United States in the world.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has emerged as a symbol and model among the deprived and oppressed Muslim nations of the world. In order to compensate for its internal weakness and to cover up its international political and military defeats it requires a series of actions and reactions and moves, foremost of which is the establishment of relations with the United States.

The person who wrote a letter to the great leader and has remarked on the U.S. wish for relations with Iran was correct in that the United States fervently wants to have relations with Iran. The White House is well aware that the Iranian nation has not forgotten its longstanding hatred of the U.S. agents and experts in this country. As long as the Iranian nation is alive, malice and hostility against the United States will remain in its heart and it will never make peace with the United States.

Clinton is going to waste the next four years announcing "forging of relations" with Iran or at least "the beginning of direct talks." The United States needs a move that arises inside Iran in order to destroy the Islamic revolution. On the other hand, it wishes to strengthen its political position and to suppress every Islamic, revolutionary, political movement all over the world.

If we retreat from resistance to the United States—which is being carried out in most parts of the world on the leadership of the Islamic Revolution—and this resistance sustains defeat right in its very center (Iran), it is obvious that the anti-U.S. revolutionary movements in all the other parts of the world will be extinguished. In such circumstances, anyone who speaks of relations with the United States will be able to breathe quite comfortably in the house of the nation (the Islamic Majles) and will convene and address sessions in the university defending his thinking.

It is for this very reason that the government has created an atmosphere in which fragrant flowers will wither and

thorns will sprout. Such a venomous atmosphere is not conducive to the system and the government. Let us therefore continue to follow the great leader and our late imam and keep the interests and benefits of our country and nation before our eyes.

Why should your own hands be the means of the destruction of the bases of this system? This is what the United States desires. Those who believe that the offspring of this revolution will retreat are grossly mistaken. The Muslim forces in the universities, seminaries, and in the basijis will defend the principles and ideals of the imam and the values of this revolution and will protect and support them.

If the United States believes that by means of its simple-minded, or frightened mercenary agents, or political figures who are prone to such fancies, it can accomplish anything, it is mistaken in depending on such individuals. Those who have stood steadfast like a strong and solid bastion before the United States will remain so and continue to endure. As long as the Muslim students and the people of this country live, and our revolutionary forces continue to remain in the midst of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, the basijis, and the armed forces, and as long as the Hezbollahi and sincere forces are present in the executive apparatus of this country, their silence is not to be construed as that of tacit consent since their hearts are bleeding. When they are called upon to perform their duty, they will stop at nothing and will have an active presence on the political scene and in a confrontation with the enemy.

One should ask the interior minister and President Hashemi-Rafsanjani: What was the reason for this change in the government's policy in 1372 [year beginning 21 March 1993] with regard to the powers of world arrogance? They should provide the necessary clarification. Can the Iranian nation not decide its own destiny? Why should we hold our ceremonies this year within the confines of the university in order to celebrate the Day of God, 4 November?

The great leadership of the revolution and the system will certainly not remain silent before such juvenile acts by the country's executive apparatus and such individuals and trends will definitely be reprimanded and reproached by the leadership.

I hope that the improper individuals will come to their senses and will join the ranks of the Hezbollahi and revolutionary forces and they will never sacrifice the interests of the revolution for the objectives and policies of any group or clique so that this system and revolution can reach its destination successfully.

[SALAM footnote] On the conclusion of these ceremonies, the demonstrators shouted slogans of "Death to America," "Death to Those Who Compromise!" and they burned the U.S. flag.

Editorial on Struggle Against U.S. 'Arrogance'

NC1511142893 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 3 Nov 93 pp 1, 2

[Editorial: "National Determination in Fulfilling the Struggle Against World Arrogance"]

[Excerpts] We are on the eve of the national day of struggle against world arrogance headed by America, whose behavior around the world is a genuine manifestation of colonialism. Once again our alert society is displaying sincere determination to continue on the path that has justly been chosen and which goes beyond slogans and words and is based on zeal and belief. [passage omitted]

Unfortunately there are some who, knowingly or unknowingly, have always believed that our problem with America is limited to only differences of opinion which existed in the past; and in explaining Iran's enmity to America they say that this enmity stems from: 1. America's support for the corrupt shah; 2. the oppression of our country; 3. the freezing of our national assets; and 4. the fact that America plotted, and is still plotting, against us in international relations. And they say that if these problems are not solved, we cannot have any type of relations. It is on the basis of this assumption that those who support this idea believe that Iran's enmity with America is temporary and that problems can eventually be solved. They also propound various methods that can be used to end this temporary situation.

This is mere naivete, which has become the basis of specific ideas which consider that political logic shows that a favorable stance vis-a-vis the enemy can be achieved and that balanced relations can be established. But the weakness of this view lies in one fundamental point: that is, that our problems with America are not the result of interrelations. They are not problems of economic, political, or cultural relations. If merely these things were the root of our problems, why should we be so illogical?

Whether we should have political-economic relations with America is an issue of cause and effect. For us, America is a symbol of bullying. It is a symbol of colonial power, of crimes against humanity, Islam, and Muslims. It is a symbol of the anti-values that are striving to rule the world. It is a symbol of ugliness and abomination which we consider to be destructive for all human beings.

However, the Islamic revolution is a symbol of struggle against oppression, discrimination, and despotism. It is a symbol of struggle against hegemonistic and arrogant powers, and a symbol of values. All these are symbolized by the Islamic Republic which is the center of the Islamic revolution. Therefore, if the Islamic revolution and the Islamic Republic pursue their initial objectives—which they have done so far—and if America remains the same as before—and we have not seen nor do we expect to see

any change in its nature—then we see that it is not merely a question of political-economic differences between two countries.

Those who believe that these enmities should end for the sake of Iran's specific interests under current conditions and who postulate issues such as political logic and national interests in a bid to portray the correctness of their views, should answer the following questions: For the current situation to change, which of the two sides has changed? Is America no longer a symbol of bullying or is the Islamic Republic of Iran no longer a symbol of struggle against oppression? Is America no longer a mentor of anti-values or has the Islamic Republic forgotten its values? There are thousands of similar questions. [passage omitted]

Our people are firm in their determination to continue their struggle, and there is no doubt that our continuation as an independent nation depends on the continuation of this national determination and ending divisive views. We should testify to our slogan "Death to America" by deeds. Otherwise we will not achieve anything. And possibly the belief of those who today claim that there is no need for this slogan in the current conditions stems from the fact that they do not believe that this slogan can be adhered to.

Paper Criticizes Interior Minister's Ban on March

NC1611213493 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 4 Nov 93 pp 1, 2

[Editorial: "13 Aban: A Strong Blow on Compromisers"]

[Text] The shout of "Death to America" once again thronged throughout Islamic Iran from the various strata of Muslims in commemorating 13 Aban [4 November, the anniversary of the occupation of the American Embassy], and those who for years have tried to convince the Iranian people in one way or another that the era of slogans has ended were disgraced. The effective presence of the people, especially the youths and students, on the scene and the clear and strong words by the leader in negating any type of relations with America, as well as his criticism of compromisers and those who entertain thoughts of relations with America once again, showed that such ploys are unable to throw the Islamic revolution off its path.

What America and its minions are thinking is how to inflict a psychological blow on the Muslim nations of the world and to prove to them that Iran's Islamic revolution, which considers itself a supporter of these nations, has started a peace process and compromise with the symbol of world arrogance and that therefore there is no need for them to continue their struggle against America and its minions, and that the Islamic revolution with all its experience and its resistance has had to surrender to America's power.

But the Muslim Iranian people have shown that they will never allow this to happen, although some may claim that political and economic logic calls for this to happen. However, this same logic tells us that to disgrace the enemy and to score more victories, we should struggle and that any type of retreat will result in weakness.

During recent years, despite the clear views of the leader and the decisive views of the Muslims of Iran on the need to continue the struggle against America and to reject relations with it, unfortunately there are those who have ignored the desires and views of the people and of the leader and have been trying to pave the way for such relations. Naturally, looking at the issue from the angle of freedom of speech, views can be stated. However, in parallel with these views, sly economic-political activities aimed at paving the way for relations also exist.

Among the calculated steps that have taken place in recent years are indirect efforts to make students unpolitical and to prevent their participation in political issues in the universities. Discrediting this strata and their readiness to further propagate revolutionary and anti-Islamic culture have been among the issues that we have witnessed on various pretexts every now and then. Among these was the recent decision by the interior minister on not allowing the Muslim students who follow the Imam's line to march on 1 November. These Muslim and extremely revolutionary students of the university who 14 years ago occupied the den of espionage with great zeal and adorned the pages of the history of the Islamic revolution with yet another great event, did not receive permission from the interior minister of the Islamic country to march and to chant "Death to America." The secret to the continuation of the Islamic revolution and to the victory of the Islamic revolution has been the self-ebullient and revolutionary movements of the people, and the people should not be prevented from carrying out their revolutionary duties on the pretext of discipline and order and for the sake of preserving security.

Should not the fact that a march by several thousand Muslim and revolutionary students who follow the line of the leader and of the Imam, may his soul be sanctified, is considered a security problem be a source of great regret? The sole reason that was stated as a justification for this step by the interior minister is unacceptable. Possibly it may be said that [the students] did not ask for permission. This, too, is unacceptable because on important and sensitive anniversaries of the revolution such excuses and pretexts are unacceptable in view of the zealous presence of the people.

But, neither today nor at any other time will the committed Muslim people who follow the leader's line request permission from anyone to continue the struggle against America and its minions; and the Muslim students did not march toward the den of espionage on 1 November to display their belief in law and order. But the interior minister should answer these ambiguities, otherwise there will be no place for doubt that such movements are aimed at preparing the way for the fulfillment of the same goal that some individuals have

been pursuing in the past few years, and like Majles Deputy Raja'i-Khorasani they lack the courage to clearly express their views. But Mr. Raja'i-Khorasani's words are being complemented with the deeds of others. However, by pursuing the views of the leader, the Muslim Iranian nation will never allow such objectives to be fulfilled under any label.

SALAM's Stance, Ties With U.S. Criticized

NC1611220093 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 2 Nov 93 p 2

[Commentary by 'Ali Ashrafi: "We Should Be Sincere in Defending the Revolution's Principled Stances"]

[Text] On the eve of the national day of struggle against world arrogance, once again the zeal of the struggle against America and criticism of policies that believe the solution to the country's current problems is contingent on compromise with the Great Satan can be seen throughout the entire country. Meanwhile, several marginal incidents have given rise to some questions whose answers may be able to clarify some issues for simple-minded people whose understanding of a struggle is limited and who fail to understand this issue once it becomes complicated.

First of all, the letter by a Majles deputy to the esteemed leader on the need to establish relations with America has become the topic of discussion both at home and abroad for some time now. The said deputy, who has expressed his simplistic assessments in the past, this time relies on a series of wrong assumptions and ignores the genuine values of the revolution and says that the country's problems can be solved by establishing relations with America. Without having any facts to defend his views, he proposes that we open the door to cooperation and compromise. It would have been opportune if, in reaction to this letter, the Majles deputies as well as the process that led to this deputy's election to the Majles and especially the Militant Clergy Association had immediately announced their stances and had prevented the misunderstanding that the solution proposed by this deputy is a view of one individual and not of a larger group or even of a strong political faction. Unfortunately, apart from a series of statements on individual stances, we did not get a clear statement from the Majles or from the Militant Clergy Association. This at a time when immediately after the letter was published the esteemed leader stood up and underlined the permanent nature of Iran's anti-American stance. However, it is necessary to recall that even if late, the Militant Clergy Association has now, on the eve of the anniversary of the occupation of the den of espionage, expressed the clear view of this immense gathering of the country's clergyman on the struggle against America as well as on the proposal by the said deputy in a firm and strong statement that deserves to be lauded.

Second, Some of the domestic factions and those newspapers that are acting as their mouthpiece consider a struggle to be genuine and defendable only if they are carrying it out themselves. Thus, they ignore revolutionary and anti-American stances that are uttered by those whom they consider to be their rivals. For example, two days after the publication of the Militant Clergy Association's anti-American statement, SALAM continues to refrain from publishing even a summary of the statement while, instead, it has been commenting on the letter by the said deputy in a bid to make it appear that the establishment of relations with America is the view of an entire faction and not of one individual. How can SALAM justify its silence at a time when it had criticized the Militant Clergy Association previously for its silence on the issue?

Third, in a bid to portray the above view, the said newspaper has recently linked the arrest of its chief editor to a calculated struggle between the faction supporting compromise with America and the Muslim students following the Imam's line and thinks that the great act by those dear students in occupying the den of espionage can justify illegal acts that were later carried out by some of the Muslim students who participated in that great incident. We think that any violation by anyone, irrespective of his record, should be confronted. But of course it is SALAM's right to worry about the fate of its chief editor. However, linking this incident—which may be entirely juridical in nature—to the compromising line of some individuals and magnifying this incident is a disagreeable act.

Here we would like to ask the country's judicial officials to accelerate their investigations concerning Mr. 'Abdi's case and, God willing, remove the existing ambiguities so that with the identification of who is guilty and who is not, his situation and the people's minds will be clear.

Fourth, can the struggle against America be fulfilled only through slogans? Under the world's current situation, economics has proven its outstanding role and we should also grant an economic scope to our struggles. When American cigarettes have flooded our markets and when Iran's tobacco company officially signs an agreement with America's Winston company for the manufacturing of cigarettes, at a time when American goods are displayed under the guise of Iranian and foreign companies at the Tehran International Fair, can we be confident that the struggle against the Great Satan is being carried out? We think that creating a consumer society and a spirit of the good life and luxury, which are being defended even by some of the country's officials as a justification for new policies, do not conform with the struggle against American domination. When the head of the country's Export Promotion Center says that the objective of the Tehran International Trade Fair is to "grant priority to imports," how can we believe that the current economic policies conform with the lofty objectives of the revolution in its ideological and political scopes? The need to review the country's economic policies and to coordinate them with the objectives of the revolution is being felt and we hope that on the eve

of the compilation of the second five-year plan this issue will receive the attention it deserves.

Fifth, this year the national day of struggle against world arrogance coincided with Thursday [the first day of the weekend] in the universities and possibly because of this, the marking of a separate ceremony is justifiable. At any rate, this issue should not lead to discord and divisiveness. The planners of this ceremony can—by bearing in mind the major objective of this day and by granting the necessary significance to the struggle against America—refrain from marginal debates that are not in any way favorable and thus prove their sincerity in the struggle against America.

In conclusion, we hope that with their wide participation in the national day of struggle against world arrogance, our people will prove that they are always present on the scene and that they emphasize the lofty objectives of the revolution in the struggle against America.

SALAM on Press Freedom, Raja'i-Khorasani Letter

NC1911114293 Tehran SALAM in Persian 3 Nov 93 p 3

[From the "Hello, SALAM!" feature based on readers' phone-in]

[Text] [Unidentified reader] Freedom of the press means the expression of the people's opinion without regard to the newspaper's interests. Raja'i-Khorasani wrote a letter and disseminated it. We expect that since you mentioned the letter, you are allowing the people to present their opinion. Why do you insist on condemning him? Regarding 'Abdi, [SALAM editor who is under arrest for violating press laws] we want him to be tried by a proper tribunal in the presence of a jury from the publications. If he has committed a crime, he should be punished and if not he should be released. The writer of an article in FARAD was tried and sentenced to 10 years imprisonment but you did not say a word about him.

[SALAM] Regarding the letter by Raja'i-Khorasani, he himself has made contradictory remarks. On the one hand, he has said that he did not give the letter to anyone, which means that he did not want it published. On the other hand, he has said that he wants it in the newspapers but is not prepared to give even one copy of it to anyone. We also mentioned once that he was exceedingly angered by a morning newspaper that had criticized the letter. However, the Tehran Militant Clergy Association [Jameh-ye Rowhaniyat-e Mobarez] that supported him as a candidate in the fourth Majles elections considers the propounding of the letter to be in the interest of the United States. In any case, such a clamor has been created that the actual letter has not reached anyone. Regarding 'Abdi, who is a member of the SALAM editorial staff, I concur with our esteemed reader, but 'Abdi is not the only one who should be tried. There are many others who have overstepped the limits of the shari'ah, the law, and have violated the sanctity of individuals without having the right to do so and they should be tried.

Regarding FARAD, the issue was not the crime of writing an article but a caricature that insulted the hallowed personality of his eminence, the imam, and it was natural that a proper sentence be passed. However, since the report on the dossier, indictment, and reasons for the court to pass its verdict has not been placed at the disposal of the press, there is not room for expressing opinions.

French Prestige 'Hurt' by Asylum to 'Terrorists'

LD1811164093 Tehran IRNA in English 1555 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 18, IRNA—The spokesman for the French Foreign Ministry announced on Wednesday [17 November] that Paris has informed Iranian authorities of the conditions under which Maryam Rajavi, wife of the terrorist Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO) ringleader was staying in Paris. The spokesman, Richard Dauque, did not specify the conditions for stay in Paris of a terrorist group ringleader.

A diplomatic source told IRNA that in its formal response to Iran the French Government has reiterated that MKO activities would be banned in Paris. According to an expert on European affairs, granting asylum to anti-Iran terrorists and clamping down on Algerian activists and other Muslims residing in Paris by France would hurt the prestige of the French people.

The Paris government has remained silent on the warning of the Iranian press that Tehran-Paris relations might suffer a serious blow. Earlier, some Iraqi Kurdish circles based in Paris had threatened to attack MKO terrorists in retaliation for their collaboration with the Baghdad rigime in repressing Kurdish people in Iraq.

The French Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Interior are said to have been at loggerheads over the political asylum granted by the French Government to anti-Iran terrorists.

Editorial Assails France's Stance on MKO

NC1911103793 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES (INTERNATIONAL WEEKLY) in English 11 Nov 93 p 2

[Editorial: "Terrorists by Any Criterion"]

[Text] In objection to the permission granted to Maryam Rajavi, No. 2 personality in MKO [Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization] and to her ex-husband, Mehdi Abrishamchi, also a high-ranking MKO member along with forty other members of that organization to enter France, a group of people who called themselves Hezbollah of South Tehran attacked the French Embassy and the Air France office in Tehran. The police have arrested several suspects in this connection.

To justify their action in admitting Maryam Rajavi into their country, the French officials have claimed that she had been granted political asylum in 1983 and that the term of her asylum had been extended in 1990.

From a diplomatic point of view the above statement is nothing but a naive political justification and poses several questions.

To begin with, why was the political asylum granted to Maryam Rajavi ten years ago and with what legal justification was it extended in 1990?

According to the statements of the French authorities Maryam Rajavi's asylum had been extended in the same year in which she and her terrorist group were assisting Saddam Husayn in the suppression of the Iraqi people. Documents relating to such a suppression are in the hands of the French authorities.

Aren't we then justified to conclude that the French government's expression of regret in the past three years for having given economic and military support to Saddam Husayn were only meant to deceive the French public opinion and that as in the past any group that assists Saddam will still enjoy the support of the French authorities.

What legal principle could compel a government to grant asylum to a person without making any investigation into the applicant's past actions and just because that person had been granted asylum ten years earlier? Actually, there is no need to go back to the distant past. To determine the terrorist nature of MKO of which Maryam Rajavi is a high-ranking figure, the French government will only have to review MKO's official statements of the past year.

In those documents, of which full texts are available with the French security authorities, MKO explicitly accepts responsibility for terrorist acts which caused countless deaths at economic centers in Iran.

MKO is a terrorist organization and the French President, Francois Mitterrand; or its Prime Minister, Balladur, cannot escape that conclusion no matter what criteria from the Western culture they may apply in their judgement of the group's activities.

Actually the French authorities are quite aware that MKO leaders are terrorists and it only remains to be seen what price they will be asking Iran in the coming days for the expulsion of those terrorists.

Remains of Antonov Crash Victims Not Identified

LD1811194293 Tehran IRNA in English 1922 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Text] Kerman, Nov. 18, IRNA—Fragments of bodies of the 17 persons on board the ill-fated Russian cargo plane Antonov-124 that crashed in the Jupar mountains of southeastern Iran on its way to Dubayy from Tashkent on Monday [15 November] night were recovered on the mountain slopes today.

None of the recovered pieces, however, can be justifiably attributed to any of the passengers of the plane that belonged to the Canadian company Atlantair.

An official of Kerman airport told IRNA Thursday that search for finding more bodies of the crash victims would be resumed Friday.

The plane's pilot radioed emergency landing request to the airport tower here seconds before crashing and was granted permission to do so, but went off the radar screen immediately after.

The technical flaw that plummeted the aircraft into the mountains near here still remains a secret and no explanation has yet been offered by any experts here as possible cause of the crash.

Belarusian Official, Habibi Discuss Relations

NC1811221993 Mashhad EQTESAD-E KHORASAN ECONOMIC WEEKLY in Persian 13 Nov 93 p 1

[Text] Belarusian Deputy Foreign Minister Petr Belobi [name as transliterated] met with our First Vice President Hasan Habibi in Tehran. The two sides discussed reciprocal cooperation in the areas of technology transfer and specialized technical and cultural training.

In the course of this meeting, the Belarusian deputy foreign minister expressed his satisfaction with the Islamic Republic for Iran's support of his country's independence and expressed the hope that with the establishment of Belarusian representation in Tehran, the level of bilateral relations would broaden further.

Our country's first vice president stressed the Islamic Republic of Iran's support of the newly independent countries of the former Soviet Union and explained that one of the principles of the Islamic Republic of Iran's foreign policy is to establish relations and boost cooperation with these countries.

Khorasan Goods Sold at Almaty Trade Fair

NC1811215393 Mashhad EQTESAD-E KHORASAN ECONOMIC WEEKLY in Persian 13 Nov 93 p 11

[Text] Nearly $100,000 in goods produced in Iran's Khorasan Province were sold at the exclusive trade fair of products from the Islamic Republic of Iran, which was held in Almaty, the capital of Kazakhstan.

Engineer Keyvani, the official in charge of exports and exhibitions at the Khorasan Industries Department, made this announcement, adding: The products of 10 major industrial units in Khorasan were on display at this week-long trade fair, including cables, wires, industrial latex components, fruit juices, milk, machine-made carpets, foodstuffs, and clothing. These products were welcomed by the people and officials of Kazakhstan.

He stated: During the course of the exhibition, talks on exchanging goods were held between traders on both sides. The Kazakh traders expressed their willingness to sell wool, meat, animal skins and gut, cork, cement, and grain to the Islamic Republic of Iran. They expressed their desire to purchase cables, wires, industrial latex components, fruit juices, blankets, machine- made carpets, and for the manufacturers in Khorasan to set up factories to produce knitted garments, cakes made from fruit syrup, and biscuits.

Referring to the upcoming visit by Kazakh businessmen to Mashhad to inspect the factories in Khorasan and to sign a protocol on reciprocal cooperation, the official said: Kazakhstan has a wonderful market to absorb Khorasan's products. In view of the stagnation in the domestic market, the active presence of industries in this country is necessary for the economic prosperity of Khorasan.

Delegation From Turkmenistan Discusses Transportation Issues

NC1911143993 Mashhad EQTESAD-E KHORASAN ECONOMIC WEEKLY in Persian 13 Nov 93 p 1

[Text] The officials of the two Balkan [as published] Provinces of Turkmenistan and Mazandaran signed a protocol regarding appropriate facilities for Iranian passengers in Marz-e Pol in the Turkmenistan border region.

A three-member delegation led by Yarjan Yarjanev, the deputy for development and transport of the Balkan governorate, is currently visiting Iran to follow up the protocol that was signed two weeks ago.

This protocol envisages an agreement on the establishment of a common border market in Marz-e Pol, a joint transit lounge for passengers from the two countries, and a Sari-Gonbad-Ashgabat-Naftdagh bus route.

According to the deputy for transport and development of the Balkan governorate, other facilities, such as filling stations, restaurants, and hotels, will be set up in Marz-e Pol and other cities of the Balkan governorate. The installation of traffic signs along the route in this province are included in this protocol.

While announcing the willingness of the officials of the Balkan province of Turkmenistan to cooperate with the officials of Mazandaran Province, Yarjanev referred to the contents of the protocol and added that the opening of stores for the sale of fruits and vegetables from Mazandaran in the city of Naftdagh in Turkmenistan would also be discussed during this visit.

Pakistan's Benazir Bhutto To Visit Tehran 'Soon'

LD1711145293 Tehran IRNA in English 1358 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 17, IRNA—The newly-elected Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto will visit Tehran soon, it was revealed in a meeting here today between Pakistani Ambassador to Tehran Najmuddin A. Shaikh and Deputy Chief of Majles Committee on Foreign Policy Mohammad Javad Larijani.

Larijani lauded the recent political developments in Pakistan which resulted in political stability in that country, and said "the interests of both countries demand that we have a strong, independent and developed Pakistan in our neighborhood."

He also expressed hope that a new chapter would be opened in Tehran-Islamabad relations.

The Pakistani ambassador called for expansion of mutual relations in economic and trade fields.

Later today, Larijani had a separate meeting with Canadian Ambassador Donald P. McLennan who hailed the Islamic Republic for helping the Azeri refugees and its mediation between the warring republics of Azerbaijan and Armenia.

Cabinet Holds Extraordinary Session, Discusses Farms

LD1811210693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Excerpt] The cabinet met in an extraordinary session on Thursday afternoon under the chairmanship of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani to continue studying the bill on Iran's second economic, social, and cultural development plan.

According to one of the articles that was approved, the government will determine the ownership of allotment farm lands by allocating the lands to individuals holding the allotments or their heirs. [passage omitted]

Nepal

Opposition Communists Demand Koirala Resignation

BK1811150093 Hong Kong AFP in English 1448 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Text] Kathmandu Nov 18 (AFP)—Nepal's main opposition communist party demanded the resignation of Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala Thursday and called for an investigation into the death of its leader.

The chairman of the Nepal Communist Party-United Marxist Leninist (NCP-UML) demanded the prime minister's resignation during a protest rally attended by 15,000 supporters to mark the death of former party general secretary Madan Bhandari.

NCP-UML chairman Man Mohan Adhikari called for a high-level commission to investigate the May 16 jeep accident that killed Bhandari.

NCP-UML sources told AFP Thursday that the president of the ruling Nepali Congress (NC), Krishna Prasad Bhattarai, had assured them that their demands would be met as soon as possible "which naturally included Koirala's departure".

Adhikari accused the NC government of human-rights violations and failing to "get a grip on the law and order situation in the country."

"Escalating prices and the deteriorating law and order situation have contributed to a loss of faith in the government," he added.

Pakistan

Sharif: PPP Stalling Nuclear Program

BK1811085193 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 18 Nov 93 p 12

[Text] Multan, Nov 17—Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly and PML [Pakistan Muslim League] (N) President Nawaz Sharif has said that his party would come into power in near future and bring change in the entire system.

Addressing a public meeting in Mian Channa on Wednesday in connection with the election campaign of Begum (Majda) Wyne in NA [National Assembly]-123 (Khanarwal)-III, Nawaz Sharif said the PML (N) had gotten more votes than the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] but his party neither formed the government nor its man was elected as President because it did not do the politics of wealth and horse-trading. But his opponents offered ministries and distributed money among the legislators to acquire their support, he alleged.

Nawaz Sharif said the existing system was not in the interest of nation. It must be changed for the stability and sanctity of democratic instituations, he emphasied.

The PML (N) chief said the present government wanted only 25 seats for women in the National Assembly by indirect election and to capture the same by home-trading but his party wanted 40 seats where the women representatives should be elected directly by registered female voters.

Refuting the allegation in the PPP leadership that the Nawaz government had frozen the nuclear programme under the US pressure, he alleged that the PPP had ruled back it seem after coming into power. [sentence as published] He would not allow anyone to roll back the nuclear programme, Nawaz added.

He said he had categorically told the US that he would neither ask for financial and nor would roll back the nuclear programme. He claimed that he had run the government for three years successfully without US aid and initiated major projects of India Highway, Motorway to put the country on the path of progress.

Nawaz Sharif demanded immediate arrest of the man accused of murder of Mian Ghulam Haider Wyne.

Earlier, Syed Fakhr Imam, Muhammad Arshad Lodhi, Rai Ahmed Nawaz, Maulana Abdul Rahim Shakir, Chaudhary Abdul Razzaq, Haji Khizar Hayat Haraj and Mohammad Anwar Ghazi also addressed the meeting.

PPP Defends Appointment of Foreign Minister

BK1811121393 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 18 Nov 93 p 12

[Text] The PPP [PAKISTAN PEOPLE'S PARTY] spokesman has said the opposition's comments about the new Foreign Minister were "unfo: unate" and "amounted to an attempt to undermine the nation's relations with other countries".

Sardar Assef Ahmad Ali is a patriot committed to the cause of Kashmir and Pakistan's peaceful nuclear programme like all other patriots. Frivolous attempts to accuse him of harming national security are part of the fabrications put out by Brig Imtiaz's dirty tricks brigade, the spokesman observed.

In a strong rejoinder to PML(N) [PAKISTAN MUSLIM LEAGUE]'s criticism over the Foreign Minister's appointment, the PPP spokesman said the Nawaz league has an unfortunate history of detracting attention from pressing problems by raising the bogey of alleged threats to national security.

Apart from baseless criticism of Sardar Assef's appointment, the opposition has also tried to create doubts about the ruling party's commitment to the Kashmir cause and the peaceful nuclear programme allegations which the opposition knows to be patently absured, he added.

The spokesman cited former Speaker of the National Assembly Gohar Ayub's statement on sensitive foreign policy issues and said it was reflective of the PML(N)'s failure to recognise that the election campaign is over.

Considering that Gohar Ayub failed as Speaker even to provide sufficient safety arrangements in the Parliament building, he is hardly competent to speak on the government's credentials on national security, the PPP spokesman said.

If Nawaz Sharif and his cohorts consider themselves the greater champions of an assertive and security oriented foreign policy, why did they fail to secure international support on the Kashmir issue, the spokesman asked.

He added that Mr. Sharif's foreign policy misadventures created complications in Afghanistan, brought Pakistan to the brink of being declared a terrorist state and isolated the country from the rest of the world. Mr. Sharif accomplished nothing in terms of raising the Kashmir issue on international forums, he pointed out.

"The induction of PPP government has broken the international isolation impossed by Mr. Sharif," the spokesman said. "The Kashmir issue has been revived on all levels and the Prime Minister has secured more international attention for the rights of the Kashmiri people in one month than Mr. Sharif did in 30 months in office, "he added.

"Instead of repeating fabricated falsehoods, the PML(N) should work towards developing its identity as a responsible opposition, "he observed. "Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has set the stage for government opposition consultation and instead of attempting to divide the nation on key national issues, Mr. Sharif and company should join the government in developing a bipartisan consensus"

Naval Strength Unaffected by U.S. Frigates Exit

BK1811143593 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 18 Nov 93 p 12

[Text] ISLAMABAD, Nov 17—While two US frigates will be leaving for home Thursday as a result of the Pressler Law application to Pakistan one newly-acquired British type-21 class ship "Tariq" will arrive Karachi simultaneously.

According to official sources, the second type-21 class ship "Babar" will reach Karachi late January next.

Senior officials of the Pakistan Navy said that though the newly acquired British ships are not brand new, Pakistan Navy has the capability to modify and upgrade them after which they will become a great asset to the Pakistan Navy.

The two ships will replace the six US frigates whose leases expired recently. Under the original arreement with the US, the renewal of the frigates was provided but after the enforcement of the Pressler Amendment against Pakistan that particular clause lost its validity.

According to the officials, the four departing frigates are currently docked at the Karachi dockyard. The Pakistan Navy engineer are removing all those devices and equipment added to them during the process of modification and upgradation.

The Pressler Amendment has hit only the fleet of the Pakistan Navy. The submarine section or for that matter the Naval Aviation luckily remained unaffected as these wings of the Pakistan Navy had not inducted any aircraft or submarine of US origin.

Officials said that because none of the Navy aircraft of submarine are of US origin, the flow of their spares from abroad has remained uninterrupted. Resultantly, the officials said, Pakistan Navy has been able to continue the process of indigenisation, upgradation and overhauling of the ships, aircraft and submarines.

Senior officials said that engineering departments of the Navy Aviation has the capability to disassemble the aircraft after expiry of the stipulated flying hours. They overhaul and reassembly them with zero metre, the officials said.

Pakistan Navy has completed the second cycle of rebuilding its squadrons of Atlantic aircraft, Alouette and Seaking helicopters and Fokker squadron.

Firing and weapon delivery precision is carried out under the computerised system, the officials added. Though Pakistan's fleet of Naval aircraft is smaller as compared to India's missile technology has put Pakistan ahead of India.

Indian Naval Aviation comprises 24 [figures indistinct] Hurricane aircraft, six Jaguars, five IL-38, six Alize, eight PY-142, 13 Islanders and five Dornies (surveillance), [figures and name indistinct] MK, eight HPT. India's fleet of ships consists of two aircraft carriers, five destroyers (Kashin) 18 mine-sweepers, 16 SDB and IOD, 19 Amphibious, six repleishment ships and eight survey ships.

India has the capability of landing up to 10,000 men at any coast of Pakistan. Besides, India has a big fleet of submarines which includes eight KILO class submarines, three type 209 submarines, seven Foxtrot class submarines, nine Midget and 22 Chariots-C submarines.

Giving a resume of the India naval might, [words indistinct] were optimistic that the Pakistan Navy could counter the former with accurate application of its technical as well as tactical skills through proper operational preparedness. They said that joint exercises (with friendly countries) like Nasimul Bahar-I and Nasimul Bahar-II give our men an opportunity to demonstrate their skill in a more realistic manner. "From time to time," they said, we carry out exercises with the countries of area of our interest to increase the cooperative between the two Navies for familarization in case of joint threat.

The Navy spokesman said that such exercises is a requirement of a small navy to achieve a high level of competeney and efficiency. He said that Nasimul Bahar-II will be most severe and advance us tactically.

He said that 250 miles deep into sea, five Saudi ships and 15 Pakistan ships will be firing missiles in a joint exercise.

He said that missile patrol boats and naval aviation will be participating in the exercise. He said that such firing exercises are essential for our officers to develop complete confidence in our weapon system.

Foreign Diplomats Said Involved in Drug Smuggling

BK1811143793 Rawalpindi JANG in Urdu 18 Nov 93 p 3

[Editorial: "Narcotics-Smuggling and Foreign Diplomats"]

[Text] The Pakistan Narcotics Control Board chairman has said that certain foreign diplomats are also involved in the narcotics smuggling in Pakistan and that the government is investigating certain important personalities for their alleged involvement in drug smuggling. Last week, the government of Pakistan prohibited all Nigerian diplomatic personnel from going out of the country and was monitoring their movements in the wake of the seizure of heroin from the car of a Nigerian diplomat in Peshawar, but the occupants of the vehicle managed to escape. Among the foreign tourists visiting Pakistan, the largest number of persons arrested on drug smuggling charges are the Nigerian nationals, but the effort on the part of the members of the diplomatic staff to smuggle narcotics is a matter of great regret and concern.

The caretaker government had promulgated an ordinance providing for the death sentence and other heavy punishments of imprisonment and fines for drug smugglers and their patrons. This ordinance needs to be debated and transformed into a legislation by the National Assembly. Today's opposition had been expressing its intentions to enact stringent legislations against narcotics during its rule and Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has also promised to take stringent actions to control the narcotics trade. Therefore, there is no reason why stringent laws cannot be made to rid the nation of this scourge and to prevent Pakistan's name from being maligned abroad. The processing and abuse of heroin have caused great sufferings to the hundreds of thousands of Pakistani families and several youths have already ruined their lives as a result of this baneful addiction, which is now also spreading among certain university students.

What is currently needed is to enact and fully enforce the most stringent legislations against drug smugglers and also to take steps to cleanse the government agencies dealing with narcotics control because certain officers and employees of these organizations have been providing patronage to the drug smugglers. Two officers of the Pakistan Narcotics Control Board were caught red-handed in this connection in Lahore a few days ago.